Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-087
Friday
7 May 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-087 7 May 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Middle East Peace Negotiations End Second Week

Al-Husayni on Future of PLO, Talks

TA0605154193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
6 May 93 pp 1, 15

[Report on interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian negotiating team, by Muhammad Dalbah in Washington; date not given]

[Text] Washington—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian team to the Arab-Israeli talks, has expressed the belief that sooner or later the Israeli prime minister will have no alternative but to deal directly with the PLO and its leader, Yasir 'Arafat, personally. In an interview with our correspondent in Washington, al-Husayni said that the "taboo" on meeting with the PLO and 'Arafat has faded. He noted, however, that he did not expect this to take place in a dramatic way but gradually within a certain concept.

Al-Husayni added that contrary to some analyses which state that the PLO will cease to exist with the formation of the transitional self-government in the occupied territories, the PLO will dissolve itself only when a Palestinian state is established. Then, its role will be similar to the Zionist movement's following the inception of Israel.

Al-Husayni said that the role which will remain for the PLO will be as the transitional self-government's authority. Al-Husayni, however, did not rule out the possibility that at a certain stage of the transitional period in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestine National Council [PNC] or the Palestine Central Council [PCC] would be convened in the occupied territories.

Al-Husayni said: These institutions exist abroad, why should they not convene inside the territories? He added: These things could take place. Al-Husayni noted that 16 of the deportees who were repatriated to the occupied territories this week are PNC members and five are PCC members. This means that the physical presence of those individuals inside the occupied territories, which currently is considered by Israel publicly and officially as something undesirable and unacceptable, is acceptable in practice pending future developments.

Al-Husayni said that the consent to repatriate those deported since 1967 could evolve into a consent to return immigrants from abroad and at a later stage into accepting personalities with a specific trait working in economic, scientific, and educational spheres, whereby the Israelis would no longer raise any problem relating to their presence.

Al-Husayni said that he did not expect Israel to alter its stance immediately from that of "no to the presence of the PNC in Jerusalem, no to its government, and no to its figures into one of acceptance." He added: I believe that things will take place gradually, whereby the time or the timeframe will be reduced.

Al-Husayni said that the "zero-sum" policy is no longer relevant. He explained: If Israel loses anything, it does not mean we will gain that. In the first stage, we might lose or win together.

Al-Husayni added that the Israelis have begun now to make a distinction with regard to the PLO, whereby "they have begun to see that not everything in it is bad for them but that there are also good things in it, just as we no longer view all Israelis as bad people, rather there are good Israelis as well.

Al-Husayni said that for us the slogan of the new climate is: Not how to liberate ourselves from the enemy in front of us, but how to prepare a form of coexistence with the enemy that ensures the maximum rights and the minimum concessions.

Al-Husayni added: This is our battle as well as that of the Israelis. Each of us is trying to obtain the maximum gains and make the minimum concessions.

Al-Husayni admitted that the delegation's acceptance to participate in the ninth round had cost it popular support in the occupied territories. He said, however, that a real leader does not say only what the people like to hear or do what they want.

Al-Husayni said: As far as the Palestinian people are concerned, the PLO is the address of the people's unity. This is very important, because when we reach the final settlement the file will include diaspora Palestinians, Resolution 181 on partition, and Resolution 194 on the right of return. The minute we accept not to discuss this file, it will mean the end of the Palestinian problem and we will become the "Armenians of the region." We do not want to reach such a situation; rather, we are trying to make our condition better that Armenia's today. In this context, we are striving to obligate the Israelis to accept the PLO publicly as a negotiator, even if not directly at the negotiating table.

Al-Husayni said: The delegation has succeeded in converting the relationship between it and the PLO from a practical form into a public one. We are endeavoring to ensure that the PLO is officially accepted. For the PLO to be accepted officially by the United States and Israel, it must prove that it is able to get things moving, not only to suspend them. This is what actually happened on the issue of postponing the ninth round and then participating in it despite the delegation's objection.

Al-Husayni defended negotiations with Rabin's government and said: The Israeli prime minister tried to depict himself to the Israeli right wing as a white knight by expelling more than 400 Palestinians in one batch, but in the aftermath he discovered that he could not become that knight because this step had to be followed by more severe measures. This led to the beginning of the countdown. Rabin started it by abandoning Yitzhaq Shamir's

procedural approach and has moved toward abandoning Shamir's substantive approach as well. The current round of talks will indicate whether this has happened.

Al-Husayni said that Rabin is no longer trying to form a coalition with the right wing in Israel, but is trying to score gains for his government in its current form and within the balance of power in it, waging a battle that he was supposed to wage six months ago.

On the agreement to the Israeli demand to set up joint working groups or committees despite previous Palestinian opposition to that, Al-Husayni said: The Israelis requested that nine committees be formed. We agreed to set up three committees only. Among the committees rejected by us was one on the early transfer of power in the occupied territories before reaching an agreement on the transitional stage.

Syria's al-'Allaf on Israeli Withdrawal

JN0605132093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Washington—Arab delegations to the peace talks will hold their seventh meeting with the Israeli side this evening within the framework of the current ninth round.

Meanwhile, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, affirmed that no peace can be established unless Israel withdraws fully from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS published today, al-'Allaf said that no document can be issued on the talks unless Israel accepts the basic elements of the Syrian document. He said that since the beginning, the Syrian track has imposed on the Israeli side serious and substantial discussions, especially after Syria presented its important document during the sixth round. He noted that the Syrian document dealt with all bases of a just and comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

Al-'Allaf added that the existing obstacle on the Syrian track does not exist because of a failure to deal with substantial issues, but rather because Israel is still not committed to full withdrawal. He said that Israel realizes that if its wants peace with Syria, it must fully withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967. Al-'Allaf indicated that the Israeli delegation is still evading the fifth article of the Syrian document, which deals with full withdrawal. He expressed hope that the Israeli delegation will adopt a stand that differs from its previous positions on this article.

Overview of 6 May Talks

TA0605194993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpts] Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf said at the Washington peace talks today that an Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights is a precondition for any additional progress in the negotiations. Al-'Allaf said this during a debate on the withdrawal issue. Israeli delegate Itamar Rabinovich told the Syrian delegate that Israel does not accept this position and that he believes that the United States and Russia—the cosponsors—will also not accept it. Washington correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports:

[Begin recording] [Stern] The second week of talks between Israel and the Arab and Palestinian delegations is ending this evening. The talks with Syria are stuck over the formulation of a joint declaration of principles. The fact that no progress has been made caused Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich to appeal to the Syrian authorities in Damascus to make a political decision that will enable progress to be made in the talks. What does Rabinovich mean?

[Rabinovich] A political decision that would give the delegation here a mandate to clarify what we believe it has to clarify in order for us to be able to climb one level higher in the talks.

[Stern] Does Rabinovich believe that President al-Asad should give the Syrian delegation in Washington more leeway?

[Rabinovich] This is what we believe.

[Stern] Syrian delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf obviously sees things differently:

[Al-'Allaf, in English] I do not need additional instructions. The instructions that I have are sufficient to move forward. But I hope the other side has the instructions.

[Stern] The talks with the Palestinians continued this morning as usual, in the framework of the working group on water and land issues and in the working group dealing with the concept of self-administration. The Palestinian side is also taking these meetings seriously. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, told a news conference at Washington's Weston Hotel yesterday:

['Ashrawi, in English] But let's say there are presentations being made that are specific, that are explaining and elaborating on positions, and that maybe the one thing we can point out to is that there is a willingness to discuss issues that were previously considered taboos and undiscussible. [passage omitted]

[Stern] The Palestinians yesterday suspended their participation in the working group dealing with human rights until next week. They are trying to prove to their constituents that they are protesting the killings of Palestinians in the territories and the continuation of the closure. Israel regards this gravely:

[Yosi Gal, Israeli spokesman] The suspension by the Palestinians of the work of the working group dealing with human rights is an odd and strange move. First, we must recall that this working group has convened mainly as a result of their request to discuss the various humanitarian issues that are of interest to the Palestinians

themselves. We certainly regard this Palestinian move gravely and expect them to reverse this announcement.

[Stern] The United States has welcomed the political momentum which the negotiations have picked up and the decision to prolong the talks for another week. The Israeli and Palestinian delegations are exerting great efforts to finalize the drafting of a joint declaration of principles regarding the structure of the self- administration in this round of talks. However, it appears that much more complicated and intricate formulation work remains to be done until this document is completed. [end recording]

Al-'Allaf on Lack of Progress

JN0705051993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the peace talks, has attributed the lack of progress in talks with the Israeli delegation to the fact that that delegation is not authorized to move to the point that would allow the talks to move forward.

In a statement at the end of the second week of talks in the current ninth round, which has been extended for a third week, al- 'Allaf said the only way out of the current whirlpool is for Israel to commit itself to what it has not done thus far, namely, to pledge to do what UN Security Council Resolution 242 requires it to do concerning complete withdrawal from the Arab territories. Al-'Allaf said Israel is still refusing to commit itself to this withdrawal, thus preventing progress in the peace process.

Al-'Allaf said he hopes the next week of this round will bring some progress in the Israeli position. He said if this ninth round ends without achieving any result after all the efforts made to attend and then extend it, many negative consequences will follow.

Al-'Allaf said most of today's discussion on the clause relating to the steps that have to be taken to implement Resolution 242 was a repeat of previous discussions and amounted to a waste of time. He pointed out that if the Israelis continue to waste time in such a manner, this will demonstrate that the length of talks do not have any effect, because regardless of how long one stays, one does not feel there is any progress forward.

Lebanese Delegate on Israeli Proposals

NC0705063793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday heard a report by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the progress of the bilateral peace negotiations in Washington. Ambassador Makkawi [Lebanese envoy to the UN and a member of the Lebanese delegation to the talks] will brief the foreign minister on the content of the Israeli proposal and Lebanon's response will be sent to the delegation to be discussed at the next session of the negotiations, which will resume on Monday.

Makkawi said that at the negotiations the Israelis always submit ideas and proposals, which we evaluate and consider in light of firm Lebanese principle—the need for total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Lebanese territory. Based on this premise, we negotiate with the Israeli delegation for the implementation of Resolution 425.

Makkawi added: This is Lebanon's firm, basic, and legal wish. It is also the wish of the international community, because Resolution 425 represents international legitimacy; it was issued by the UN Security Council. We hope specific results will emerge from this round, because the time has come to discuss the basic and essential issues to reach the results desired by all the Lebanese people.

Lebanon To Analyze Israeli Document

JN0705072493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, yesterday stated that the Lebanese delegation asked certain questions of the Israeli delegation and will get the answers to these questions next week.

Following yesterday's session, Shammas said his delegation has not yet started analyzing the document presented by Israeli delegation. He noted that this document includes an Israeli proposal to set up a military working group to discuss security issues which Israel stipulates that Lebanon should implement before talking about any withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent envoy to the United Nations and deputy head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, has stressed the Lebanese principles, that is, the need for complete Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory.

Upon arrival in Beirut last night, after he was summoned by his government for consultations over the peace talks, Makkawi said: Based on the Lebanese principles, we are negotiating with the Israelis to implement Resolution 425. This is not the desire of Lebanon only, but also the desire of the world community because this resolution represents international legitimacy since it was issued by the UN Security Council.

Declaration of Principles Draft Detailed

TA0705090593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 May 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] The special status accorded to the settlements under the interim arrangement will not constitute a precedent for the permanent arrangement; the territories will be perceived as a single unit in discussions on the permanent arrangement. This clarification was delivered by Major General Dani Rothschild, the coordinator of

activities in the territories, at the talks of the Israeli-Palestinian working group sessions in Washington. He stressed that the self-administration [minhal 'atzmi] will not involve territorial partition of the territories, but rather a sharing of powers by the autonomy and the areas which remain under Israeli rule.

The Israeli proposal states that the self-administration council's authority will apply to territory agreed on in negotiations without addressing the question of sovereignty. Israel has pointed out that it regards the territories as a single unit and that it does not plan to mark certain sectors (settlements in security areas), thereby determining in advance that they belong to Israel.

The Israeli and Palestinian delegations have been unable to agree conclusively on a formula defining the link between the self- government [memshal 'atzmi] and the permanent arrangement. The Palestinians refused to settle for the Israeli proposal, which stated that the two phases are linked in a single comprehensive process that will lead to a permanent arrangement on the basis of Resolution 242. In discussions on water issues, Israel rejected the Palestinian demand for exclusive rights on water originating in the territories. [passage omitted]

Israeli and Palestinian sources in Washington have stated that Israel has for the first time offered to grant the Palestinians primary legislative authority during the interim arrangements, provided Israel retains a veto right on the content of legislation.

The Israeli proposal was included in a draft of a joint declaration of principles, which was yesterday submitted to the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks. The declaration of principles has eight clauses, one of which deals with the issue of Palestinian legislative powers during the interim arrangements in the territories.

Israeli sources in Washington said yesterday that this is a fundamental shift in the Israeli position, as Israel has practically withdrawn its objection to the self-administration council's being authorized to pass legislation defining its basic powers during the interim stage, or in other words, to legislate primary laws. Israel was previously opposed to granting the Palestinians this power, stipulating that the Palestinian council would deal with "secondary" legislation only: bylaws, regulations, municipal laws, and other laws that do not define the Palestinian council's basic powers.

Under the new Israeli stand, Israel will have the right to inspect every proposed legislation and to annul it if it contradicts Israel's principles.

Israel's objections will follow two criteria: First, if Israel believes that the proposed legislation has attributes of sovereignty which draw the Palestinian self-administrative council closer to a quasi-state; and second, if Israel feels that the legislation will alter the existing situation and create irreversible conditions in anticipation of the permanent arrangements in the territories.

The mechanism designed to give Israel a veto right was defined as the "mutual confirmation" [ishrur hadadi] of primary legislation of this category. To wit, if Israel finds such laws unacceptable, it will have the right not to confirm them.

The initial Palestinian reactions to the new Israeli position were positive. Palestinian sources said that the new Israeli willingness was encouraging and that accord on the "mutual confirmation" mechanism proposed by Israel may be attainable. The Palestinian reservations on the Israeli-proposed mechanism stems from the fact that it is based on the premise that the Palestinian council's source of authority during the interim stage will not be purely Palestinian.

Israel's stand is that the basic collection of laws, from which the Palestinian council will derive its powers, will be agreed in negotiations between the parties, but if the Palestinian council is required to seal loopholes and to adapt its own legal basis to reality by additional legislation, it will be allowed to do so provided the laws receive Israeli confirmation.

[Ron Ben-Yishay's report from Washington on pages 6 and 20 of Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT's LESHABAT supplement in Hebrew on 7 May adds that "according to reliable sources, the document of principles will apparently include the following components:

["—A definition of the objective of negotiations stating explicitly that the interim arrangement for self-government in the territories is only the first stage of the negotiations, and that their objective is to attain a permanent arrangement. It will further state that the permanent arrangement will be based on Resolutions 242 and 338, namely, territories for peace.

["—A definition of proceedings and regulations that will govern the elections in the territories and the establishment of an executive council [mo'atza eqzequtivit].

["—The executive council's powers, composition, and structure.

["—The establishment of an Israeli-Palestinian liaison body for the joint management of affairs pertaining to Jews in the territories and to Israel.

["—The establishment of a Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli liaison body for a similar purpose.

["—Upon the establishment of the self-government, the Israeli security forces will redeploy in predefined sites. Israel will retain authority over security, as well as foreign relations."]

Al-'Allaf on Israeli Proposals

TA0705101293 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 May 93 p 2

[Report by Dan Avidan from Washington]

[Excerpts] Dr. Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation to the political negotiations, yesterday told

the DAVAR correspondent that he rejected the proposal that Professor Itamar Rabinovich made two days ago in a briefing to Israeli correspondents according to which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would clarify exactly what kind of peace Syria is willing to establish with Israel in the hope that such an announcement will lead to a breakthrough in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations. Al-'Allaf asserted that Rabinovich's proposal was nothing but an attempt by the Israeli Government to avoid its obligations in the negotiations and to refrain from making a commitment to implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, as stipulated by Security Council 242, according to Syria's interpretation. "This is an attempt to divert the attention of world public opinion from the main issue, which is the need for the Israeli delegation to the negotiations, which have been continuing for 18 months, to take a serious approach and promise to carry out a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, al-'Allaf said.

Mr. al-'Allaf stated that the Syrians were committed to the idea of reaching a comprehensive arrangement; however, in the talks with the Israeli delegation they are demanding a pullback within the framework of attempts to formulate a joint declaration of principles. [passage omitted]

Al-'Allaf said yesterday that there had been no progress in the negotiations because the Israeli delegation is not authorized to propose gestures on the issue of withdrawal. "If we continue to waste time in this manner, it will mean that more time (or in other words the extension of the current round of talks by one week) is not helping us make progress." He said that although the discussions had been serious, as indeed they have been since the Madrid Conference, they have proved pointless. "Much of the discussion is simply repetitious, which is a waste of time unless there is an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights," al-'Allaf noted, expressing the hope that Israel will present a more flexible position on the question of withdrawal to permit progress and prevent the ninth round of talks from failing.

As for the question of whether there is any point in holding a 10th round of talks, al-'Allaf said that this question should be directed to the Israeli side. He reiterated that Syria will not define its position regarding normalization with Israel and open borders before Israel promises to implement a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Al-'Allaf said he had not received an invitation to meet with President Bill Clinton next week together with the other delegation heads; however, he expressed the hope that such a meeting will indeed take place and pave the way for greater U.S. intervention in the negotiations.

Professor Rabinovich said that the fact that al-'Allaf had rejected the proposal that President al-Asad explain the nature of the peace Syria was willing to make reflects Syria's discomfiture in light of the demand by Israel and the international community that Syria commit itself to signing a contractual peace agreement and establishing normalization in its relations with Israel. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

League Report Warns of Israel's 'Designs' on Africa

NC0605150493 Cairo AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I in Arabic 29 Apr 93 p 2

[Report by Ashraf al-'Ashri]

[Text] The Arab League has called on Arab states to confront Israel's penetration into Africa by consolidating their relations with the African states and normalizing Arab-African relations through establishing joint economic projects between the Arab League and the OAU.

A recent Arab League report distributed among the permanent delegates has revealed Israel's intensive endeavors in the past two years to control the economic and political affairs of most of the African states through restoring relations with them. During the past two years, Israel established military and agricultural cooperation with more than 15 states, including Ethiopia, Nigeria, Zambia, Kenya, South Africa, Zaire, Angola, and some of the Nile basin countries. It sought to strengthen ties with the remaining states by offering them military aid, agricultural cooperation and expertise, and specialists in the fields of industry and development, areas where Africa is in urgent need.

The report noted that in the past five years, Israel's successive governments drafted a long-term plan to strengthen and normalize ties with African states. Yitzhaq Shamir's government laid the first foundations for Israel's infiltration of Africa and this was followed by Yitzhaq Rabin's current government that is pursuing the same line, after the Israeli Knesset had recommended the need to restore Israel's ties with all the African states before the end of the nineties. This would enable Israel to control and obtain its needed raw materials cheaply and then reexport them, in the form of manufactured goods, to the poor countries. The report noted that Israel depends primarily on Africa to import wood, meat, and petroleum and mineral products, which are abundant in some African states such as Angola, Zaire, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Liberia, Togo, and Kenya. These are the states with which Israel established full political relations recently.

The report warned against Israel's designs to extend its influence over and establish ties with some Arab Maghreb countries, particularly those having huge reserves of minerals that Israel needs for its nuclear industry. The report stressed that Israel had devised a long-term plan to ensure its domination of the African market as an alternative market for its products and exports, since it expects an impending recession after the implementation of the European unity agreements. The

report called for a comprehensive Arab strategy to face Israel's penetration into Africa to prevent it from fully dominating these countries, considering the risks from the consolidation of Israeli-African relations to Arab interests in Africa.

The report said that Israel attaches great importance to the issue of having access to African waters. In this respect, it has built 33 dams in Ethiopia, thus reducing the water share of some Nile basin countries.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Chief Backs Immediate Military Move on Bosnia

LD0605211593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has expressed his dismay over the so-called Bosnian Serbian parliament's rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan and Bosnian Serbian attempts to bypass this plan with an unrealistic proposal for a referendum on the plan 15-16 May. Dr. Algabid issued a statement on this matter today, saying: This flagrant Serbian rejection of peace confirms the fears expressed by the ICO over the seriousness of the Serbian side in seeking a just, peaceful settlement of the crisis and the continuation of maneuvering to win time to complete its criminal plan to liquidate Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to establish greater Serbia on the basis of the complete ethnic cleansing of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He urged the Security Council and all the parties that had postponed their plans for military intervention against the Serbs until the meeting of the so-called Bosnian Serbian parliament was over to intervene militarily immediately to force the Serbian side to stop the fighting and end the aggression against the Muslims unconditionally and to impose the peace plan, which was accepted by the Muslims and the Croats.

Palestinian Affairs

Factions Urge 'Immediate Withdrawal' From Talks

JN0605191893 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 93

["Text" of "important political statement" issued by the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to Arab-Israeli peace talks; place and date not given]

[Text] O masses of our Palestinian people in the homeland and in the diaspora! O masses of our Arab and Islamic nation! With firm determination and unbeatable resolve, the masses of our people in the occupied homeland continue their resistance to the usurper Zionist occupation, and our valiant people's intifadah begins its 66th month, demonstrating greater resilience and strength despite all the repression, torture, siege, and deportation campaigns carried out against them, and despite the fact that several people are martyred and wounded every day at the hands of the Zionist enemy.

The valiant popular intifadah, thanks to this continuation and these sacrifices, has become a prominently honorable phenomenon in terms of struggle, epitomizing the line of struggle against and engagement with the Zionist enemy. At the same time, this intifadah provides a true response to suspicious plans, and also to the U.S.-Zionist plots and schemes, which are aimed at realizing the conspiracy of administrative self-rule and liquidating the Palestine question. Hence, numerous attempts and efforts are being made to squash the intifadah and put out its blazing torch. These attempts and efforts take the form of racist and fascist practices by the Zionist enemy, as well as policies pursued by the leadership holding sway over the PLO and its negotiating team in the occupied homeland. Instead of respecting the wishes of our people, who reject this liquidation course, they are persisting with a defeatist and deceptive policy based on exaggerating elusive victories in a bid to absorb the sweeping popular rage directed against them. For while the siege imposed on our kinfolk in the occupied territories continues, and while the most heinous crimes of collective genocide are being committed against our people, the dictatorial leadership remains engaged in the ninth round of negotiations, which inherently poses grave dangers to the Palestine question. These dangers concern the introduction of practical measures as part of arrangements for the administrative self-rule in response to U.S. and Zionist dictates.

While saluting our people's intifadah, which is beginning its 66th month and which opposed the continuation of the negotiations and the resumption of the ninth round of negotiations through the mammoth popular referendum conducted inside the occupied territories and in the diaspora on 27 April 1993, the 10 Palestinian factions urge our people to maintain their vigilance and remain alert, and not to fall into the trap of deceptions promoted by the dictatorial leadership and its extensions in the occupied territories. This leadership and its extensions promote these deceptions as accomplishments scored during the negotiations.

While viewing the recent repatriation of 30 Palestinian deportees as a legitimate natural right, we would like to warn against using this repatriation in a manner that would promote the destructive Madrid-Washington course. We also salute our fraternal deportees stranded in Marj al-Zuhur for their principled and firm stand, and also for their determination to return en masse in accordance with Resolution 799.

O masses of our Palestinian people in the homeland and in the diaspora! The 10 Palestinian factions would like to underscore the following:

1. There must be an immediate withdrawal from both the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Plus, it must

be emphasized that any results reached by the negotiating team are not binding to our people.

2. We urge the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation, as well as people around the world, to support our people's struggle and their just cause, and to aid their escalating intifadah in the face of the stepped-up collective genocide being carried out by Zionist enemy troops.

3. We urge all living forces and active humanitarian bodies to condemn and denounce the racist and fascist Zionist practices perpetrated against our Palestinian people.

4. Under the current circumstances, we would like to underscore the importance of strengthening our people's national cohesion so as to thwart attempts to sow sedition inside and outside the homeland to safeguard their national gains and accomplishments, including the PLO.

5. We urge the masses of our people to accomplish the following tasks to mark the start of the 66th month of the intifadah:

A. Inside the occupied territories:

1. Today, 6 May, must be deemed a day for stepping up activities and confrontations inside the occupied homeland.

2. Sit-in's must continue to be staged before the homes of the negotiators to express our opposition to their continued participation in the ongoing talks.

B. In the diaspora: Various political and mass activities must be staged to express our people's support for their glorious and escalating intifadah.

On the 15 May anniversary, a general and sweeping national strike must be staged in the occupied territories and in the diaspora.

The dates 17 May, the fifth monthly anniversary of the recent deportations, and 20 May, the anniversary of the 'Uyun Qarah massacre, must be deemed days for escalation and confrontation inside the occupied territories. In the diaspora, political and mass activities must be held on these two occasions.

Glory to the intifadah! Immortality to the righteous martyrs of our people!

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian factions

'Arafat Writes Jordanian Legislators on Peace Talks

LD0605210593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], Palestinian president and PLO Executive Committee chairman, addressed a message to Islamic movement representatives in the Jordanian parliament in reply to their message to him. They expressed surprise at the PLO decision to participate in the current round of negotiations. Brother Abu-'Ammar expressed his regret as he was expecting support from the representatives of the Islamic movement for the process of the sacred struggle waged by our people, with the consideration that we consider these negotiations as a battle which might be more fierce than the military ones. Brother Abu-'Ammar pointed out that he was expecting that such opposition would reach all the Arab participants in the negotiations together, considering that the decision to participate is an Arab collective decision which constitutes a force for our negotiators.

Editorial Questions Delegation on Extending Talks

TA0605185093 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 May 93 p 9

[Editorial: "On the Extension of the Ninth Round"]

[Text] It was announced in Washington yesterday that the heads of the Arab negotiating delegations adopted a collective decision to extend the ninth round by an additional week. According to various media sources, this extension was received with satisfaction by circles in the Palestinian delegation, which had made a recommendation to this effect to the Arab delegations.

The Palestinian recommendation and the satisfaction that followed its acceptance, which led to the announcement on extending the round a third week, indicate that the talks during the past one and a half weeks brought about a shift in the direction desired by the Palestinians. Such a conclusion is reinforced by the fact that the Palestinian side went through real and very difficult hardship in making the decision to participate in this round. This is because the idea prevailing at the time was that all the objective conditions were not favorable for producing the aspired for "gain."

The real irony, however, is that the extension of the round has been accompanied by Palestinian reservations about what has been achieved in it so far. The head of the Palestinian delegation still adheres to his stance that "Israel refuses to commit itself to the bases of a political settlement" and that "it continues to insist on settlement in Jerusalem and on keeping the settlements." Moreover, the Israeli delegation is persisting in dividing the occupied territories into regions subordinated to different authorities, without discussing the sovereignty over those regions during the transitional stage. As for the new deportees in Marj al-Zuhur, the head of the Palestinian delegation underscored the Israeli stance which adheres to the deal with the Americans. Regarding the old- time deportees, the answer was that there was nothing new worth mentioning over this issue as well.

Such an assessment raises the logical question: Why was the round extended if matters remain at a standstill? And is it possible to reach an agreement on joint principles if the gap is deep and cannot be bridged?

Revealing Israeli intentions and placing Israel to the test—and implicitly the United States—was done a long time ago and there is no benefit in continuing the rounds without tangible results. The Palestinian people do not

want to enter into a long stage of procrastination and wrangling in which some Israeli measures and gestures are adopted. These people want to see the light at end of the tunnel first. Then, they will be ready to endure the hardship and the tests involved in reaching there. Therefore, it is not enough to provide "a serious and positive" climate at the negotiating table. One must provide the climate of a real breakthrough on the ground, inside the occupied territories. Israel should embark toward this end in order to persuade the Palestinian people of the benefit of the negotiating process.

Nabulus Figures Leave for Amman To Consult on Police Force

TA0605181893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has learned that some Nabulus figures left for Amman today to consult with Palestinian officials on the formation of a Palestinian police force during self-rule. Among those figures is businessman Sa'id Kan'an, who met recently with Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

PLO Source Cited on 'Secret' Agreement Between Iran, Hamas

NC0605195793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] AFP has quoted a PLO source in Tunis as saying that the Iranian Government signed a secret agreement with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] at the end of 1992. According to the source, the agreement stipulates that Hamas is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people's struggle and entitles it to financial, moral, and political support necessary to continue the jihad and step up the confrontation with Israel.

Algeria

Arrests Made in Laghouat Province

LD0605134793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Regarding security, 57 people were arrested by the Laghouat Province security services on the charge of providing material and moral support to a wanted terrorist group. Details from Bachir Hedibel:

[Bachir Hedibel] This group, which consists of cadres working in Laghouat Province—including doctors, engineers, higher education teachers, and others—is led by Makhloufi Mohamed Larbi, alias Boualem, who is a doctor working in the Laghouat town health sector. According to the Laghouat security services, a search of the home of this doctor, the son of a harki [collaborator with the French occupation forces] who was killed during the revolution, led to the discoery of an automatic weapon and transmission equipment stolen from a policeman who had been killed in Laghouat during Ramadan. The source added that the search led to the discovery of printing equipment, leaflets aimed at agitation, TNT explosives, and ammunitions, in addition to a starting gun and a camera stolen from the National Gendarmerie team in Ksar el Hirane.

The Laghouat security services indicated that Makhloufi admitted that there was a plot to sabotage the gas pipeline linking Hassi Rmel and Italy. A quantity of ammonitrate found in the doctor's home had been prepared for that purpose. The other people involved admitted the existence of plots to assassinate cadres and citizens in Laghouat. The investigation carried out by the provinces' security services also revealed the existence of another clandestine group, which had been training to use arms with a view to forming an armed group.

In another development, 50,000 dinars and a number of cars used to convey terrorists have been seized. Forty-six men among the gang of 57 were placed in preventive detention on the orders of the investigating judge. They face various charges, such as forming armed groups aiming to unddermine state security, the assassination of security forces and citizens, joining armed groups, possessing firearms and ammunition, harboring terrorists, sabotaging public property, printing, and circulating inflammatory leaflets. Eleven men were temporarily released.

Trial Suspended To Consider Lawyers' Postponement Request

LD0705080893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Algiers special court last night suspended hearings of the trial of those implicated in the explosions in Houari Boumedienne International Airport to deliberate the request made by the lawyers [that the trial be postponed]. The decision of the court concerning this request will be announced at the resumption of the trial hearings tomorrow Saturday. This was affirmed by the court presiding judge. The decision to suspend the hearings for deliberations was received with satisfaction by the defense body.

At yesterday's evening hearings, lawyers insisted that there was no link between the explosion in Houari Boumedienne Airport and the other charges made such as bearing arms against the security and safety of the country, harming national unity, attempting to destroy the regime, harming national defense, destruction of public installations, inciting citizens to bear arms and carry out acts of sabotage, helping villains and criminals, failing to report crimes, possession of arms and prohibited explosives and premeditated murder.

During yesterday's hearings, the problem arose of the absence of 10 lawyers from the trial since yesterday morning. The presiding judge set a delay up to tomorrow for the absentees to join the proceedings. Otherwise Article 24 will be applied against them of the recently amended terrorism law [stipulating that a lawyer may be debarred and even sent to prison for 6 months when disobeying a compulsory summons by the court for him to be present at hearings]

Airport Trial Resumes; 10 Lawyers Absent

LD0605133993 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpts] The trial of those involved in the Boumedienne International Airport bombing resumed this morning at Algiers special tribunal. At the first session yesterday, the presiding judge rejected a defense request to postpone the trial in which the majority of lawyers are defending the accused who number 58 defendants, 26 of them still on the run, were absent. Proceedings of the second day of the trial in this report from the radio correspondent at the tribunal, Mohcen Slimani:

[Slimani] There was noticeable hesitation at the launch of this morning's session caused by the defense body's failure to show up on time. That delay the presiding judge initially considered to be an intended stay-away, although he later understood the real reasons behind it and so the trial was resumed in normal conditions. The delay was incidentally caused by a small incident inside the court room as a few bullets came out of the weapon of one of the gendarmes inflicting light wounds to another gendarmes.

This morning's session was marked by the special court's decision, reached after deliberations, on the absence of over ten lawyers who had been automatically appointed. The prosecutor general considered the absence an attempt on the part of the lawyers concerned to politicize the proceedings. He described that stance by saying: When politics come into court rooms, justice leaves. He demanded the court apply Clause 24 of the recently amended Terrorism and Sabotage Act.

The court took the demand into consideration and eventually decided to give the lawyers concerned an altimatum until this Saturday to attend the launch of the morning session. It should be mentioned that Clause 24 gives the special court's presiding judge full powers to take punitive measures against lawyers. The absence of automatically appointed lawyers remains a standing issue until Saturday.

One of the lawyers responded to the prosecutor general's accusation that lawyers had brought politics into the session by saying that their stance was taken to protest the recent amendments to the Anti-Terrorism and Sabotage Act.

Another prominent issue at this morning's session was the reading of the charges by the Court Clerk. [passage omitted]

Concerning the charges against Rabah Kebir [Islamic Salvation Front, FIS, official currently in exile] and [jailed FIS leader] Abassi Madani's sons, Salim, Oussama and Ikbal, they include inciting citizens to take up arms against state authorities, leading armed gangs, not declaring offenses, aggravated theft, and possessing and circulating inflammatory cassettes. [passage omitted noting that one of the lawyers asked that his client's case be separated from the bombing; the judge said the request was premature]

Egypt

Musa Discusses Peace Process, Mubarak's Meetings

NC0605130093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received a report from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina after the so-called Serb Parliament in Bosnia rejected the Vance-Owen peace plan. Afterward, Musa said he also forwarded to President Mubarak a report on the progress of the ongoing Arab-Israeli talks in Washington.

He said there has been progress in the current round of talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track, like the progress made during the previous round on the Syrian-Israeli track.

He said that in Egypt's view, progress on any course has a positive effect on progress on the other courses and he said he hoped the progress would continue and strengthen.

He pointed out that one reassuring sign is the extension of negotiations for a week, perhaps longer, because the talks are dealing with substantial issues, details, and ways to act. He said talks in the current round no longer revolve around procedure or the general atmosphere, but deal with core issues, such as the transitional phase on the Palestinian track and a complete withdrawal in exchange for complete peace. He expressed the hope that things will develop positively and said: We have reason to express cautious optimism in this respect.

Asked about Israel's proposal on a partial withdrawal from the Golan in return for incomplete peace, Musa said: We will not engage in the details of one side's negotiations with the other, but we are talking on the basis of land for peace. We did not talk about a piece of land in exchange for a piece of peace. This is something we hope the negotiations will resolve.

He added that it is inconceivable to imagine a solution according to which Israel retains part of the land in exchange for peace or is satisfied with partial peace or bilateral relations.

Asked about President Mubarak's forthcoming tour of the Arab region and when it will take place, Musa said the tour has indeed been decided.

Musa said he briefed President Mubarak on the outcome of his recent visits to Austria and Greece. On Mubarak's forthcoming trip to Japan, Musa said it will take place at the end of this year.

Commenting on President Mubarak's talks with German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel today, Musa said they discussed pressing issues, primarily the peace process' development, the Middle East and the Gulf, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, an issue that is now moving toward a very critical point. He added: Our stance on this issue is known and President Mubarak explained it in detail to the German minister.

He said the Egyptian-German talks also covered bilateral relations. The German minister explained his country's view on several issues, including investment, trade, tourism, and the Mubarak-Kohl project to develop technical education in Egypt. He described the meeting as very important and fruitful.

As for President Mubarak's meeting with OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmad Salim, Musa said Salim briefed the president on preparations for the African summit in Cairo in late June and the topics to be covered, primarily the situation in the continent and the problems African leaders will discuss.

Musa said the meeting also addressed the way in which the OAU can play an effective role in settling African disputes. He explained that the summit will elect a secretary general, noting that everyone favors reelecting Salim Ahmad Salim.

'Abd-al-Rahman Opposed to Egyptian Mediation Efforts

PM0605104093 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 3-9 May 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Sources"]

[Text] Well-informed Arab sources have said that secret contacts have been made between some Egyptian figures who participated in the "mediation" between the Egyptian Government and "extremist Islamic groups," and Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, who lives in the United States. The sources said that the aim of the contacts with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman is to find out his true position on this "mediation." The sources pointed out that 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman expressed "clear opposition" to any mediation with the Egyptian Government and set conditions for agreeing to this "mediation"—conditions which the Egyptian authorities cannot accept. The sources pointed out that 'Abd-al-Rahman believes that this "mediation" benefits the Egyptian regime more than it benefits the "Islamic Groups" to which he belongs.

Mubarak Confers With OAU Chief Salim

NC0605103793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim, who is visiting Cairo, at the Presidential Office in Heliopolis. Present were Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and OAU Assistant Secretary General Ahmad Hajjaj.

In a statement afterward, Salim said the talks dealt with international developments in general and Africa in particular. He said the most significant topics that will be discussed by the African summit, slated for Cairo in July, will be resolving inter-African conflicts peacefully, developments in South Africa, promoting economic cooperation among the continent's states, and Arab-African cooperation.

In his statement, the OAU secretary general said Egypt is a leading country in the Arab world and Africa and will make great efforts in this respect when President Mubarak assumes the OAU chairmanship. He noted that the 30th anniversary of the OAU will coincide with the next African summit in Cairo.

Mubarak Meets Japanese Liberal Party Secretary General

NC0605084593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0733 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—Japan's Ambassador in Cairo Taizo Watanabe has stated that in his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, secretary general of the Japanese Liberal Party, discussed international and regional issues, foremost of which is the Middle East issue and security in the Gulf, as well as [word indistinct] promotion of bilateral relations. The Japanese ambassador said the meeting also discussed Mubarak's forthcoming visit to Japan this year.

Mitsuzuka is one of the most prominent politicians in Japan.

Musa Meets Austrian Counterpart, Comments

NC0405040293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met in Vienna today with the Austrian foreign minister. The meeting was attended by members of the Egyptian and Austrian delegations.

Musa said after the meeting that the talks dealt with several Middle Eastern issues and the bilateral and multilateral peace talks. Answering a question about Islamic groups in Egypt, Musa said that the problem is confined to a terrorist group that has nothing to do with Islam. A distinction must be made between the fundamentalists and the terrorists. Freedom of opinion, he said, is guaranteed in all democratic societies, such as Egypt, and this includes freedom of opinion for the fundamentalists. But if these groups exceed the limit and threaten Egypt's security and interests, they will be confronted and dealt with as terrorists and criminals.

Asked about Egypt's mediation between Israel and the Palestinians and its call to the Palestinians to stop the intifadah and violence, Musa said that Egypt is prepared to do everything to ensure the success of the peace negotiations. However the situation in the occupied territories must be governed by the Geneva Convention. Egypt rejects violence and terrorism, irrespective of their source. But, at the same time, Egypt understands the situation of the Palestinians under occupation and when the occupation ends, violence will end also.

Saddam Dreams of Kuwait 'Liberation' Ridiculed

NC0705105193 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Saddam's Dreams and Ambitions in Kuwait Continue"—punctuation as published]

[Text] 'Udayy Saddam Husayn has proved he is his father's son. He has proved that, like his father, he has not learned the lesson well. Father and son still dream and maintain illusions while closing their eyes to the irrefutable facts.

In just two weeks, the Iraqi regime twice stressed its determination to retrieve Kuwait soon!! On Saddam Husayn's birthday, the newspaper BABIL, mouthpiece of his son 'Udday, carried on its first page banner headlines that spoke about the dreams and illusions. The banner headline read: "The parade and the birthday...a meeting soon with our kinsmen in Kuwait."

The Iraqi regime thus continues its threats against Kuwait, its people, territory, history, and legitimacy. Thus the tyrant's 56th birthday turned into a parade, which the regime depicted as the parade of the mother of battles, but that we believe to be the parade of the mother of defeats. Oddly enough, the man who destroyed his country and all the resources of his Arab people is celebrating his birthday with steel and fire. This was apparent in the military parade witnessed by

Baghdad for the first time since the Gulf war. Saddam forced Baghdad's citizens to watch this parade last Monday!!

The tyrant's son had already used the same words he wrote that day, when he wrote in BABIL on 17 April that Baghdad will one day liberate what it regards as its 19th governorate!! The newspaper, which is published by this eldest son of Saddam, seized the occasion of 17 April, the anniversary of the liberation of the Iraqi island of al-Faw from Iran on 17 April 1988, to make its headline read: "The al-Faw...Kuwait: Constant liberation, God willing"!!

The odd thing is that all Iraqi newspapers label Kuwait as Iraq's 19th governorate!!

At the same time Saddam Husayn continued to make his claims, the day before yesterday, Kuwait officially announced the capture of a group of Iraqi agents who planned to carry out terrorist actions inside Kuwait. Weapons and explosive were also seized. 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Dakhil, Kuwait's minister of cabinet affairs [name and title as published], announced that members of this terrorist group are being interrogated.

Following this hostility and overt and confirmed aggression by Saddam's regime, we cannot believe that Kuwait will one day forgive the Iraqi regime. It cannot accept reconciliation or even indulge and tolerate a regime that still threatens Kuwait's security, government, and people.

Appointment of Iraqi Diplomat in Cairo Approved

NC0605195293 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 May 93 p 9

[Report by Rabi' Shahin]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry approved the appointment of an Iraqi diplomat to head the interests section in Egypt. The diplomat, who has been living in Cairo for several years, works in Iraq's mission at the Arab League, but he was named to head the interests section.

Informed diplomatic sources have told AL-SHA'B that there is a desire to bolster relations between Cairo and Baghdad to offset the so-called rising Iranian influence in the Gulf region and create a balance in Cairo's relations with the region's countries. Foreign quarters have recommended keeping the current Iraqi regime in power, while Cairo believes the regime's fate should be left in the Iraqi people's hands!

Egypt has dispatched Counselor Rida Nasr 'Abd-al-Karim to head its interests section in Baghdad as a step to consolidate relations between the two countries and Baghdad's decision has come as a reciprocal measure. Iraqi diplomatic sources have expressed satisfaction at the current level of bilateral relations and noted that they are heading for a gradual improvement.

Writer Claims U.S. Can 'Manipulate' Islamic Groups

NC0705095993

[Editorial Report] Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic on 5 May publishes on pages 4 and 5 an approximately 1,800-word article by Chief Editor Hasan Sabra entitled "In Afghanistan, the Islamists Presented Their Credentials to America."

Sabra begins by recounting a discussion he had with an unnamed "senior Arab diplomat posted in a Western capital." The diplomat notes how Arab involvement in the Afghanistan war has "backfired." The diplomat goes on to say that Arab regimes, such as that of late President Anwar al-Sadat, encouraged the dispatch of volunteers to Afghanistan to prove their "deep loyalty" to the United States. The volunteers went to Pakistan, where they trained under CIA sponsorship, he claims. The diplomat continues: During the war, "Muslim Arab groups competed over writing reports about themselves and other groups to U.S. intelligence officers to establish their record in battles and their participation." By the time the war was over, the CIA knew "everything about Arab Islamic Groups," whereas Arab countries have fallen into a "trap," he suggests. The diplomat's remarks end there and Sabra provides his own analysis.

He suggests that the United States would try to benefit from its "extensive knowledge" of "the Arab and non-Arab Islamic Groups who are locked in a struggle with Arab regimes." He asserts: "The United States has sufficient information about the inclinations of these groups and their leaders. It has pictures of the members as well as their fingerprints. Wouldn't anyone in possession of such information know how to manipulate the Islamic groups or at least benefit from their actions?"

Sabra claims that the United States has rejected an Egyptian request for information about militant fundamentalists: "It is significant that, during a recent visit by a high-level CIA delegation to Cairo, aiming to enhance coordination between the U.S. and Egyptian security bodies, that Egypt officially requested that the United States give it information about Egyptian Islamic groups. It was astonishing that Washington refused to provide Egypt with the information. More astonishing was that America got all the information it wanted from Egyptian officials."

Sabra suggests that the United States has the power to manipulate Islamic groups to serve its interests. He writes: "The United States can manipulate Islamic groups in Arab countries according to its plans. It can control these groups, even if their message was ostensibly hostile to pro-West or Westernized regimes."

The author warns other Arabs about U.S. intentions in the region, saying:

"America does not trust the Arabs, even those who sleep in its arms and who would not move a finger without consulting it. America fears the history of the Arab

people, a history gleaming with independence, leadership, and ideas that inspired the world for decades and centuries."

Sabra continues: "America wants the Arab people, their wealth, roads, land, sea lanes, and markets to remain under its control. America has been doing just that through its relations with the regimes it sponsors. Now these regimes are staggering and America seeks to maintain its interests through the rising forces. America is preparing these forces for the transfer of power, protection of their leaders, and pressure on their adversaries to weaken them.

"Isn't this what it is doing with 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman?

"Isn't this the first lesson of Afghanistan?" With these questions, Sabra concludes his article.

Grip of Iranian 'Extremist Forces' Said Tightening

NC0605072393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0606 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 6 May (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says the recent report by the U.S. State Department on international terrorism, placing Iran at the top of the list of countries sponsoring terrorism, confirms an important fact—the internal situation in Iran and Iran's relations with the outside world are steadily deteriorating.

In a commentary today, the paper says the moderate approach that characterized Rafsanjani's assumption of the Iranian presidency has suffered a setback in favor of the radical wing led by Ayatollah Khamene'i, which has opposed Rafsanjani's reforms and his attempts to steer the country on a moderate course.

Referring to the Iranian revolution's promises to the people of freedom, prosperity, and tolerance after the Iraq-Iran war, the paper says it is clear the country is teetering on the verge of economic collapse. Inflation has skyrocketed, reform policies have stumbled, and the grip of the extremist forces that use the mantle of exporting the Islamic revolution to carry out terrorism has tightened.

Editor Says Terrorists Reveal 'Hostile Plan'

NC0705094893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 7 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM has stated that terrorists' confessions during interrogation have revealed serious facts about the scale of a terrorist plan to strike against Egypt's stability and undermine its security.

In his daily editorial, the paper's Editor In Chief Ibrahim Nafi' reviews several of these facts, including the confessions of terrorists returning from Afghanistan. The terrorists confessed that the Sudanese capital has been designated a main link in drawing up the hostile plan and facilitating the entry to Khartoum of those terrorists—some of them sentenced to death—within sight and sound of security officials in Sudan.

Nafi' said the interrogations have also revealed that the Sudanese regime has given terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, nickname Abu- Khalid, a house in Khartoum. Abu-Khalid is making all the necessary contacts to specify the roles of the organization's members and their tasks in monitoring the movements of ranking officials in Egypt and in procuring the weapons and explosives required for their terrorist operations.

Nafi' reiterated that Egypt can confront terrorism effectively and firmly. Through integrated scientific planning, Egypt can triumph over terrorism and extremism as it did in greater battles. Egypt will continue to play its role and try to achieve construction and progress and promote its cultural image before the world.

Terrorist Mustafa Hamzah is the primary defendant in the case of the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. Hamzah is a fugitive and was sentenced to death in a case that has come to be known as the "Returnees from Afghanistan."

Interior Minister Forms Antiterrorist 'Suicide Squads'

NC0705071493 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 3 May 93 p 1

[Report by 'General Nasif]

[Text] AL-AHRAR has learned that Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi has decided to form suicide squads to combat terrorism. The minister decided to keep the identity of the squads' soldiers and officers secret. They will carry out operations wearing masks.

The interior minister held an important meeting following the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, attended by Major General Usamah Dabbus, director of the Public Security Department; Major General Rida 'Abd-al-'Aziz, director of Cairo Security Department; and Major General 'Ali Abu-al-Nasr, deputy director of the Public Security Department and the director of the State Security Investigation Department. The interior minister gave instructions that squad members should be soldiers with superior combat capability and training.

Comments on Ways To Confront Terrorism

NC0505161093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1509 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has asserted that the confessions made by arrested terrorists have been made without coercion or torture, "because we found in their possession certain evidence that made it impossible for them to deny" their crimes. He added that because the police took these people by surprise, they were able to capture them along with their weapons and all other instruments of their crimes. There

also was eyewitness testimony and scientific evidence produced by the criminology lab.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published Friday, the interior minister stressed that generalizing punishment is an incorrect policy. Therefore, he said, the blockade and curfew were lifted in Abu Tij, Upper Egypt. He wondered how a curfew could be imposed on a city because some terrorists had committed a crime. He asked: Why do we have to generalize punishment to include all the city's inhabitants?. If I want the public to help me, it is necessary to make them feel that I am at their service and that the police represent the state, he said.

The interior minister denied reports by a certain newspaper that he has ordered the circle of suspicion to be enlarged. I refuse to judge people on mere suspicion, he stressed.

In his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, the interior minister emphasized that there is no connection whatsoever between terrorism and correct religious thinking, because terrorism is anti-religious and even strikes at Islam under the guise of religion.

He added that the terrorist groups strike at anyone who stands in their way. Their operations target judges, writers, officers, and previous and present governors who participated in fighting terrorism, he said, affirming that their evil goals will never succeed.

Minister al-Alfi noted that he is considering the idea of restoring the status of mayors and local community chiefs in the various villages because they are capable of playing an important role in maintaining the villages' security and stability.

He added that he soon will put forward a draft bill amending the Mayors Law by introducing the appointment system. Appointments will be subject to strict conditions, including good reputations and conduct and belonging to good, well-reputed, and influential families.

Undercover Police Back on Streets in New Security Plan

NC0605101593 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 1 May 93 p 9

[Report by Majdi 'Abd-al-Ghani]

[Text] Undercover police are returning to the streets of Cairo and the towns in important governorates as part of the Interior Ministry's new security plan, which is already being implemented.

Police officers and noncommissioned officers have been instructed to wear civilian clothes to carry out missions. Police stations have been supplied with new vehicles to pursue suspects and modern firearms have been issued to police.

After receiving several important tips from citizens on terrorist hideouts and movements, Interior Minister Major General Hasan al- Alfi held a meeting with Major General Hilmi Salih, first assistant interior minister for security affairs, and Major General Mustafa 'Abd-al-Qadir, director of the State Security Detective Force.

State, Islamic Groups 'Mediation' Viewed

NC0705082593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 4 May 93 p 9

[Article by Fahmi Huwaydi: "On Mediation"]

[Excerpts] Now that mediation has become the talk of the town, a subject for one-upmanship and agitation, and a topic involving misunderstanding and ill will, the issue must be discussed to clear up any confusion so that right can be discerned from wrong. The mediation to which we refer is that undertaken by some independent Islamic figures, led by stars from among the most prominent ulema in Egypt, whose religious and national duty dictate upon them the need to do their best to save the country from the danger of violence that has spread and become a threat to its security and welfare.

This is why they got together for an expanded dialogue on what they must do. While others confined themselves to mere statements, speeches, and slogans, the group of ulema chose another road that they believed was more effective and feasible. They decided to use their prestige and various parties' trust in them in a serious action. They agreed to speak with security officials first to engage in a debate about what they believe to be the reasons contributing to the birth and spread of violence. They also decided to get permission from Interior Ministry officials to hold direct contact with Islamic youth group leaders who are in prison, with a view to urging them to renounce violence. They sought to do so by discussing with these leaders what they believe to be religious foundations for introducing change by their own hand. By using this method, the ulema believed they could persuade the leaders inside Egypt to use their influence with their brothers abroad to end their practices, which violate the law and disturb the country's security. It encouraged the ulema that lawyers representing some defendants in cases being examined by Egyptian courts gave them the impression that the leaders inside Egypt could actually influence the groups abroad and so reduce violence, if not stop it entirely.

After studying the issue and examining a letter sent by one leader, it transpired that their demands primarily revolve around the need to end police excesses against them and their families and to secure the release of those who were acquitted by courts but against whom the security agencies used various methods to extend their detention by years, as they put it. The substance of these messages required no mediation, since it primarily involves a call to the security agencies to comply with the regulations and guarantees stipulated in the text and the spirit of the law. The core of the demands did not differ

much from Arab Human Rights Organization demands in its reports during the past few years, something that means that the mediation basically defended the rule of law, human rights, and dignity. [passage omitted]

In such an atmosphere, the group of ulema headed for a meeting with the former interior minister and his top aides, foremost among whom was the head of the State Security Agency. For four and a half hours, a frank discussion took place on the group's goal, which seeks an end to violence, and its views on the circumstances that pushed the nation into this situation, which no person sincere to his religion or homeland can accept. At this point, the speakers thought the Interior Ministry, in view of its security responsibilities, was being blamed for acts committed by others. They pointed out that a true confrontation of violence requires, in addition to the Interior Ministry's role, a review of many issues relating to the Islamic call, media, and education. They noted the need to defuse the mines placed in these areas, which contribute to creating a fertile ground for violence or to weakening resistance to it.

One group member informed the interior minister of the nature and scope of the offer proposed by the leaders inside. This ignited a lengthy discussion about the seriousness of the offer, which in turn led to a debate about the fruits of past efforts for dialogue. At the end of the meeting, it was agreed to set up a three-party liaison committee to discuss the details with the Interior Ministry officials and the leaders inside. One group member is a prominent lawyer representing defendants in cases being examined by the courts. To my knowledge, the committee met once with the head of the State Security Agency and received several verbal messages and one written message from some leaders of the Islamic groups inside. The messages were all in line with the framework. This is the real story. Now let us look at the picture depicted in the Egyptian media. The issue was initially portrayed as an unacceptable mediation with forces of terrorism, something that undermines the state's standing, belittles its power, and shows contempt for the law and the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Since I was close to the activity of the group and a participant in its meetings, I could confirm with a clear conscience that with the exception of the demand relating to ending torture and liquidation, which could easily be inferred, there is not one piece of information that is true regarding reports on the committee's action or discussion. If we gave them the benefit of the doubt, we would say that some reporters used their imagination to write sensationalist articles. But if we temporarily abandon this innocent approach, we will immediately realize that these reports deliberately sought to fabricate a series of lies to provoke authority and incite it against the group, thus closing the door for any dialogue and maintaining the status quo. [passage omitted]

The group of ulema held a meeting last week in which it decided to freeze its activity until further notice, something I believe is a "good omen" that will please those angered or concerned at the attempt and who raised hell about it. [passage omitted]

Awqaf Minister on Dialogue With Extremists

NC0605210993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 May (MENA)—Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has asserted that Egypt does not reject dialogue with stringent religious groups and that the door is open to dialogue with the groups that do not take up arms or terrorize the peaceable people in Egypt.

Speaking to the press, Mahjub explained that what came to be known as the wise men's committee undertook an unacceptable task; that is mediation between the state and terrorist leaders who committed crimes and were imprisoned after being proven guilty.

Mahjub added that the state welcomes any committee that seeks to guide and enlighten youth using thought and argument. As for those who took up arms, the only instrument of dialogue is arms until they abandon the stand they have assumed.

The awqaf minister affirmed that the state is in control of the situation and that it is providing all the necessary resources to guard the society against the hazards of extremism and terrorism adopted by a stray, misled minority.

Displeased with Egypt's stability, certain states exerted themselves to fan the fires of sedition in Egypt and other Arab states, Mahjub said. He noted that the people arrested in connection with subversive incidents made full confessions that disclosed the foreign role in the export of terrorism to neighboring countries.

Mahjub added that honorable al-Azhar is not absent from all this, that it performs its role, and that there is an extensive plan involving religious, media, cultural, sport, and educational institutions to confront the dregs of terrorism and extremism.

Suspect in Security Officer Murder Killed

NC0605190893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1607 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 6 May (MENA)—Terrorist Ahmad Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad, 25 years, a suspect in the assassination of Assistant Asyut Security Chief Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif al-Shimi was killed in a shootout with police in the village of Bakur in Abu Tij, Asyut, today. The shootout occurred when police tried to arrest the suspect on a warrant from the prosecutor's office.

Major General Mahmud 'Antar, the Asyut security chief, stated that the police warned the suspect several times and advised him to surrender. He did not heed the warning, climbed to the roof of a house, and opened fire at the police.

Maj. Gen. 'Antar pointed out that the police tried to avoid shooting at the suspect because he would have helped the investigation into al-Shimi's assassination. He reiterated that there are strict orders to keep exchanges of fire within the limits necessary to defend the troops and curb the resistance of the criminals.

The Abu Tij Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation and the coroner was summoned to conduct an autopsy.

Defendant in Attack on Minister 'Tortured'

NC0505211893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1713 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—The Emergency High State Security Court today resumed the trial of the defendants in the assassination of author Dr. Faraj Fudah. The court heard several demands from the defense before listening to the prosecution's witnesses. The court adjourned the session until Sunday to continue hearing witnesses for the prosecution.

Defendant Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim, who is also one of those accused of attempting to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, attended today's session for the first time. [passage omitted]

[Paris AFP in English at 1943 GMT on 5 May adds: "One of two accused murderers of secular Egyptian author Faraj Fudah was beaten and tortured during interrogation, the High Security Court said Wednesday. The court decided to have Ashraf al-Sayyid Ibrahim checked after another defendant, Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, denounced in court the torture to which his friend had been subjected.

["Judges and journalists saw marks on Ibrahim's body caused by electric shocks as well as blows to the head, the torso, the hands and feet. 'Abd-al-Ghani said the torture was 'aimed at forcing confessions.'

["Thirteen defendants are being tried—ten of whom face the death sentence according to the indictment—in the June 7, 1992 shooting of Fudah, who frequently wrote scathing articles against Muslim fundamentalism. Ibrahim was arrested on April 27 as part of an investigation following the failed assassination attempt against Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on April 20. Ibrahim is also charged with involvement in that case.

["He said in response to a question from the defense that he was tortured during a recent interrogation related to the attack. He was remanded in custody and only appeared in court on Wednesday."]

Al-Azhar Shaykh: Terrorism, Islam Incompatible

PM0505153793 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 28 Apr-4 May 93 p 32, 34, 35

[Interview with Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq, shaykh of al-Azhar, by Ayman al-Sayyad in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Sayyd] Egypt is witnessing a wave of violence, terrorism, and bloodshed. Where is al-Azhar?

[Jad-al-Haqq] If you mean what is published by the media about the clashes between some groups and the police under the phrase terrorism and combating terrorism, I would like to say that calling what is happening in Egypt terrorism is not correct. This is because most of the incidents or attacks by some groups against the police are merely a reaction. The incidents are in the first place either criminal incidents violating the law or to do with revenge. And revenge is not unknown in upper Egypt. So it is erroneous to regard these incidents as terrorism.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you mean that what we are now witnessing cannot be called terrorism?

[Jad-al-Haqq] It does not fall into that category at all. I explained that the reasons are limited to two factors: Either revenge or criminal incidents.

[Al-Sayyad] Do you have a plan or certain ideas to confront the sedition?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Plans exist, and al-Azhar scholars—that is, preachers and scholars of the institutes—are spread throughout Egypt. All these are performing their duty in lending advice to people and guiding them to right. But the matter requires a great deal of deliberateness in tackling these incidents.

[Al-Sayyad] But all this is taking place under the banner of religion and Islam.

[Jad-al-Haqq] That is another matter. What can we do if a thief says "in the name of Allah the most merciful, the most compassionate" [before he steals]? Nothing. It is his business. But it is erroneous for us to describe him as Islamist and them as Islamic groups. The proper thing is to call him by his name: This man is a murderer... that is aggression. Because anyone who takes revenge for himself is an aggressor. So every incident must be classified according to its type, and we should not attribute everything to an Islamic group, because Islam is innocent of all these actions. Islam does not permit anyone to take revenge for himself.

[Al-Sayyd] It is they [not further identified] who say that?

[Jad-al-Haqq] It is their business.

[Al-Sayyad] But perhaps you agree that there are certain ideas in which some people believe which are behind their practices?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Perhaps, even though al-Azhar urged these people to refer to the scholars if something appeared doubtful to them. So if they did not refer to the scholars and present their ideas to the scholars, how can they be identified. They should be presented to the court as criminals, that is according to the crime they committed, not in a different capacity. And then their ideas would emerge and the scholars would be able to discuss these ideas with them. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sayyd] Does that mean that you do not agree with the view that there is a religious vacuum?

[Jad-al-Haqq] The religious vacuum you mean exists in educational programs, not in real life, as the scholars are performing their duty everywhere. The vacuum exists in the educational programs, from nursery to university.

[Al-Sayyad] At any rate, criticisms aimed against al-Azhar over recent years have come not only from outside it, but from a number of its scholars as well.

[Jad-al-Haqq] Everyone has his own opinion. People do not have one opinion. Those scholars who accuse al-Azhar of negligence should reexamine what they are offering.

[Al-Sayyad] We cannot ignore the fact that the main extremist organization is led by an al-Azhar scholar, namely Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman.

[Jad-al-Haqq] Lucifer was one of the angels.

[Al-Sayyad] "God is Great... al-Azhar Shaykh Ought to Resign" is a famous book published by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman which accuses you of being biased against the Islamic tendency and of turning into a tool for suppressing the voice of true Islam.

[Jad-al-Haqq] God knows that al-Azhar—from its imam to the youngest student in it—is performing its duty. But everyone has his own view and everyone has his own method of performing his duty. With my respect for Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, he has his own view and his own method, of which al-Azhar does not approve. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sayyad] It has been noted that you have taken no part in the mediation attempts which some people are trying to make now. Why?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Al-Azhar does not get involved in everything people think about. It is always better to give others a chance. Besides, there are quarters other than al-Azhar performing their duty in the call [al-da'wah], like the societies licensed to operate in this field. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sayyad] Some people have called for standardizing Friday sermons, closing small mosques, and closing big mosques outside praying hours—measures they believe would help to tackle the spread of extremist ideas among the youths.

[Jad-al-Haqq] All those ideas are inacurate and futile. The Friday sermon is not just a standard form to be delivered, otherwise we would be returning to the days of the famous "Ibn-Nabatah's divan"—which would not benefit people in this age. The Friday sermon is designed to lend advice and guidance. And advice can only be lent in the present, not in the past. Closing mosques and moving the youths out of them is a futile method. Direct dialogue is the best remedy. [passage omitted]

[Al-Sayyd] Some people believe that "an al-Azhar independent of the state" would be more able to perform and have influence.

[Jad-al-Haqq] What is the scale of that independence? Is there any quarter or organization on the territory of any state which is independent of it? Or is independence something relative? Without doubt the correct interpretation is that the independence of any quarter on the territory of a state is relative. In the sense that it has the freedom to carry out its duties in the framework of the general system—something which al-Azhar enjoys.

[Al-Sayyad] Is it time to reexamine the al-Azhar organization law, which some people believe is responsible for the weakness of this old, respectable religious institution?

[Jad-al-Haqq] Those who talk about al-Azhar's weakness are deluding themselves. Because they often do not know what is in al-Azhar or where al-Azhar is.

[Al-Sayyad] Many writings and indeed official views in the West—especially the United States—have begun to talk about Islam as the new enemy and the alternative to communism.

[Jad-al-Haqq] That is clear; they want and mean what they are talking about. It is clear from the positions of the United States and Europe in their campaign against Muslims and their issues. Tell me of any peaceful or calm area in the Islamic world which is performing its human duties and developing its resources? Where? All regions of the Islamic world have enough problems which distract them from focusing on developing themselves and their financial and economic resources. They are planting thorns in the Islamic world.

Labor Party Leader on Mubarak's Speech

NC0705101993 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 4 May 93 p 1

[Report by Muhammad al-Quddusi]

[Text] Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri has made a statement to AL-SHA'B on the occasion of the Labor Party's Sixth General Congress, which will be held on 6 and 7 May. He pointed out that on this occasion, he will call on all patriotic forces to rally around a national plan of action to bring Egypt out of its crisis and strengthen its position in the face of foreign conspiracies.

Commenting on President Mubarak's recent speech, Shukri thanked the president for inviting him to attend the May Day ceremony, thus restoring the tradition that

Mubarak was the first to initiate by inviting the opposition leaders to such public occasions, regardless of differences. He noted that the May Day speech touched on some of the issues on which the Labor Party and the government substantially disagree. He added: It seems that the president agrees with us in principle on the need to consider the interests of the poor while introducing economic reforms and to avoid selling national companies to foreigners at the cheapest prices. We believe, however, that the differences between us and the government are still wide despite the president's remarks. If we look at the deeds, not the words, we will find that eliminating subsidies, price hikes, and the rising unemployment mean that the poor are bearing the burdens of reducing the budget deficit. In the meantime, there are disgraceful signs of opulence by the rich, whose taxes are not proportionate to what they appear to spend. We also notice that the deals being considered to privatize the public sector involve primarily foreign parties. All reports warn against the low prices offered in these deals. This in practice means that the government is proceeding in the direction we are opposed to, and which the president in his speech also rejected!

The party leader added that the president's remarks about terrorism in particular caught his attention, because the president made implicit references to the Labor Party that echoed what the official media occasionally say about our party's vague position on terrorism. Shukri pointed out that he wished that the president had refrained from disseminating these accusations, which lack any basis. He added: Our party undoubtedly rejects the use of armed force, but this does not mean that we support the government. We undoubtedly oppose the government and believe its policies are responsible for the spread of tension and instability in society.

Shukri concluded his statements by stressing that the position of the Labor Party and its newspaper is very clear. He added: We are not an insignificant minority, as the May Day speech hinted. At any rate, in democratic countries such things are judged through free elections, and we hope this civilized method, the free elections, is applied in Egypt. We pray to God to guide everyone.

Libya

GPC Resolution Specifies Procedures for Privatization

LD0505134893 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Today the General People's Committee [GPC] issued a resolution on the statutes of [private] ownership of public economic installations, companies, and units. This resolution specifies the bases, regulations, and procedures of ownership of the installations specified in these statutes, and also the mechanisms through which these installations will be privatized.

The resolution, which includes 45 articles, has abolished any rule contradicting these statutes.

The resolution specifies that it comes in force from the date of its issue. We will relay the complete text of the resolution during the two local television and radio bulletins today.

Egypt's al-Baz Arrives 4 May, Discusses Ties, Lockerbie

NC0505115493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1058 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, 5 May (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, this afternoon met Jum'ah al-Fazzani, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, and senior officials at the General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation (Libyan Foreign Ministry).

Dr. al-Baz told a MENA correspondent in Tripoli that the talks focused on bilateral relations, Arab Issues, relations between Libya and Western countries, and the Lockerbie issue.

Dr. al-Baz arrived in Tripoli last night.

Protocol on Economic Cooperation With Cuba Signed

LD0605190993 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] The protocol of the 9th session of the Arab Libyan-Cuban Joint Committee was signed this afternoon.

The protocol was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for utilities, tourism and transport and for the Cuban side by Ernesto Melendez Vacshs [name as received]—the minister-chairman of the board of state for economic cooperation in Cuba who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

The protocol included the promotion and strengthening of cooperative relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Cuba in various areas for the benifit for both Arab Libyan and Cuban peoples.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Utilities, Tourism and Transport made a speech following the signing confirming the significance of such joint meetings and the need to intensify the contacts to follow-up joint cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Cuba.

Ernesto Melendez Vacshs, minister-chairman of the board of state for economic cooperation in Cuba, replied by a speech expressing his thanks and appreciation for the generosity and hospitality which had been reserved to him and his delegation since their arrival to the Great Jamahiriyah. He also praised the relations established

between the Great Jamahiriyah and Cuba and confirmed the need to strengthen and promote these relations.

The next session of the Arab Libyan-Cuban Joint Committee will be held in Havana during the first half of next year.

Sudan

Officers, Former Ministers Reported Arrested

NC0605201193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 4 May 93 p 1

[Excerpt] Khartoum—A wave of resentment prevails in the Sudanese Armed Forces against the al-Bashir-al-Turabi ruling regime in the wake of a campaign of arrests of a large number of officers. The arrests come amid international condemnation by human rights organizations. The arrests included political and religious opposition leaders and former ministers and officers that the regime claimed participated in the imaginary invasion and coup attempt. The regime accused Egypt and Lebanon of supporting this attempt.

Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, head of the Ummah Party Executive Bureau, said that the arrest campaign included two mosque imams in Omdurman; Major General Fadlallah Burmah, former transport minister; Dr. Ibrahim al-Amin, former minister of state for expatriate affairs; Habib Sarnub, former energy minister; Hamid Muhammad Hamid, Ummah Party Political Bureau member; and 'Abdallah Ishaq, head of propagation and guidance at the liaison committee. He said that the Sudanese authorities declined to disclose the whereabouts of these detainees and did not allow their families to visit them. He urged the international community to expose these flagrant violations of human rights and take the necessary measures against the fascist Sudanese leaders. [passage omitted]

SPLM's Garang on Domestic, Regional Issues

PM0705101193 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 3-9 May 93 pp 12-17

["Part I" of interview with Colonel John Garang, leader of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, by 'Afaf Zayn in Nairobi; date not given]

[Excerpts] This interview took place after two important developments: First, the agreement between the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by Garang and Sudanese opposition leaders on a unified view of the future of the situation in Sudan. This agreement was reached at a meeting held in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, on 17 April. The meeting issued a statement which was called the "Nairobi declaration."

The second development is Sudanese President al-Bashir's announcement of the uncovering of a plan to topple his regime in which forces belonging to Garang took part. [passage omitted]

AL-WASAT's interview with John Garang began with questions about these two developments. With regard to the coup attempt, Garang stressed that "neither he nor his movement, the SPLM," has anything to do with the alleged coup attempt announced by Sudanese officials. He added: "The aim of the Sudanese regime's talk about that attempt is to try to bolster the internal front, that is all."

The interview with Garang then moved to the "Nairobi declaration" question. Commenting on this declaration, Garang said: "The Nairobi declaration was not drafted by the SPLM alone. Nor did we impose this declaration on any party. The Nairobi declaration was the fruit of an interrupted dialogue between the SPLM and the Sudanese opposition parties in the grouping. The dialogue began in Addis Ababa immediately after the formation of the Democratic National Grouping in September 1989. It continued in Cairo and London. The Nairobi meeting was the fourth between the SPLM and the grouping. At it the agreement was reached." [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Do you believe that you were the only winner in the recent Nairobi meeting, as the Democratic National Grouping—for all its previous views—agreed with your views?

[Garang] The only winner is the Sudanese people. Our movement was launched from southern Sudan for complex historic reasons. But we actually express the aspirations of millions of Sudanese in those areas. The Democratic Unionist Party's [DUP] popularity and supporters extend from Khartoum to east Sudan to include millions of Sudanese people. And the Ummah Party's grass roots extend from Khartoum to west Sudan. The agreement of the signatories to the Nairobi declaration on a unified political position is a victory for the greater unified Sudan, not just a particular political faction. Those who signed the declaration did not backtrack, but, rather, amended and developed their positions. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Do you believe that that the Nairobi agreement will face the same fate which two similar agreements faced in the past, when the signatories thought they had settled the problem of the relationship between the state and Numayri's so-called "Islamic laws" for 1993 [date as published]? The first agreement was between you and the same Sudanese parties which signed the "Nairobi declaration" at the meeting held at Koka Dam, Ethiopia, in 1985. The second was between you and Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the DUP, in Addis Ababa in November 1988.

[Garang] Your questions tend to touch painful spots. I cannot know that the Nairobi will not face the same fate faced by the Koka Dam and Addis Ababa agreements. Nevertheless, I say—and let us believe so—it is a good start. From here we should begin. The fate of the Nairobi agreement depends on us, the signatories, and on what we are going to do.

[Zayn] Did you obtain guarantees which prompt you to be optimistic?

[Garang] The guarantees lie in this agreement being accepted by all the parties which signed it. We know that our Sudanese masses are characterized by piety and religiousness. These masses believe in tolerance and refuse to let anyone imposes tutelage on them, even in north Sudan itself. The experiment of Islamizing the existing state in Sudan is being imposed by a small minority in Khartoum, namely the National Islamic Front [NIF] party led by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] When the Democratic National Grouping issued the Cairo declaration in November 1992, saying that "religion is for God and the homeland is for all," the Ummah Party led by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi protested because the problem of the relationship between religion and state was to be settled by a constitutional conference six months after the al-Bashir regime is toppled, as agreed by the grouping's leaders in London in February 1992. Thus the Ummah Party froze its membership of the grouping. What guarantees that the leaderships of the Ummah Party and the democratic Unionist Party will agree with the recent Nairobi agreement?

[Garang] You can put this question to Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi, who is in charge of external work in the Ummah Party, which signed the Nairobi agreement. You can also ask DUP Deputy Leader Ahmad al-Sayyid. I believe the representatives of these two parties had sufficient time to consult with the historic religious leaderships of the Ummah Party and the DUP. You questions are legitimate and right. Let me assert that they consulted with their religious leadership in a manner that is sufficient to assure me. [passage omitted]

[Zayn] Who do you believe is the actual ruler in Khartoum—the NIF under Hasan al-Turabi or the Revolution Command Council [RCC] under Lieutenant al-Bashir? And what is the relationship between them?

[Garang] Officially, the actual ruler of Sudan is the RCC. But the NIF under Al-Turabi is the regime's real force. It is in charge of planning domestic and foreign policies behind the facade of the RCC. The RCC and the NIF party represent the organic force of the Sudanese regime. The RCC represents the regime's military arm and real pillar. The NIF party is the main moral force for the regime, while the front's intellectual cadres dominate state departments and run them under Al-Turabi's supervision. It is an organic marriage between the RCC and the NIF party. How does this relationship operate? That is something governed by various objective circumstances. Military aspects fall under RCC jurisdiction. As for moral guidance, it is the NIF's job. With regard to political aspects, the front consults with the officers affiliated to it.

[Zayn] The Sudanese Government says that the African states surrounding it help the SPLM on the basis of a common interest based on confronting Islam and the possibility of its spreading in Africa via southern Sudan. And Khartoum is moving toward Islamic states like Iran to bolster its relations with them. What is your opinion? And do the adjacent African states really help you on the basis of confronting the spread of Islam in Africa?

[Garang] It is untrue that the African states help us, whether because of their fear of the growing influence of political Islam or the Sudanese Government's influence on the Islamic minorities within their borders. The adjacent African states do not help us on the basis of hostility to Islam or Arabism. It is an excuse promoted by Khartoum to justify its use of Iran to continue its war against the SPLM. Other Islamic states like Malaysia and Indonesia provide secondary moral support for Khartoum. Iran is the real power which supports the Sudanese regime militarily and materially so it can continue its war against us. Iran also supports the Khartoum regime in order to firmly establish extremism in the region at both the Arab and the African levels.

[Zayn] Do you have evidence of Iranian military and material support for the al-Bashir regime?

[Garang] I have circumstantial evidence which proves the existence of integrated Iranian support for the Sudanese regime. And without doubt Arab governments who have some extremist citizens being trained by Khartoum, like Egypt and Algeria, also have corroborated evidence of the Iranian presence in Sudan. And I can confirm that there are military experts in Sudan, especially at the training and organizational level.

[Zayn] Does the Sudanese People's Liberation Army have any Iranian POW's, for example?

[Garang] No, we do not have Iranian POW's. Our information confirms the existence of Iranian elements in the training camps belonging to the Sudanese Armed Forces in Juba and al-Damazin. In 1988 we arrested an Iranian pilot. The Iranian presence in Sudan has grown since the Salvation Revolution in 1989, while the Libyan presence has declined. And Khartoum's influence is growing among the Islamic minorities in northern Uganda and in Kenya. And Khartoum supports the extremist Kenyan Islamic Party, which has started to try to disrupt Kenya's political structure since last year, namely when unrest erupted in the coastal city of Mombasa, the political base for the presence of this unlicensed Islamic Party.

[Zayn] Do you believe that Iran's support for the experiment being implemented by Khartoum prompts you to look for friends among non-Arab states which share with you the tendency to confront the political Islam phenomenon—Israel, for example?

[Garang] Our ties with African states are not based on hostility to Islam as a religion. True, adjacent African states are closely watching Khartoum's fingers moving toward their Muslim minorities. But this is not the real or the sole reason to prompt us to reach an agreement

with these African states. There are other reasons, attributable to these African states' belief in our cause. Islam has been spreading in Africa for centuries, but through callers and travelers with a view to opening new horizons for Africans, not abolishing the constituents of the African identity. With regard to Israel, it has not tried to contact us, and vice versa. We are aware of the sensitivity of this relationship with regard to our brothers, especially in the framework of the Arab dimension of the Sudanese identity. And we do not need to add a new problem to the problems from which we are already suffering. At the same time we of the SPLM salute the Arab states and the PLO which have engaged in the negotiation process with Israel for the sake of achieving a just and final peace in the region.

[Zayn] Talking of the Iranian presence in Sudan, it was noted that Herman Cohen, U.S. deputy secretary of state for African affairs, said during congressional hearings in March that the U.S. Administration has no evidence of Khartoum's complicity in terrorist activities threatening the security of the states neighboring Sudan.

[Garang] I cannot speak on behalf of the U.S. Administration. Nor can I interpret Herman Cohen's behavior and statements. What I know exactly—and I have proof of this—is that Sudan embraces terrorists and trains Egyptian and Algerian extremists so that they will fight the regimes in their countries and replace them with other regimes. Not only that: Khartoum helps and trains African extremists from Kenya and Uganda in order to play the "political Islam card" inside these countries as a means of pressure on these African regimes in preparation for striking at our relations with these states. Khartoum supports the unlicensed Kenyan Islamic Party. And the SPLM knows that there are camps for training extremists in Sudan. The countries affected by Khartoum's policies, like Egypt, Algeria, the United States, Kenya, and Uganda have objective justification for expressing concern over the Sudanese regime's behavior. This concern reflects on their relations with the present regime in Sudan.

Religion, State Relations Discussed in Abuja

EA0505223093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Abuja, 5 May (SUNA)—The session the night of 4 May at the Abuja II negotiations discussed the report tabled by the joint committee and which [words indistinct] discussed relations between religion and the state.

Tunji Olagunju, chairman of the Nigerian mediation team, announced that it was proposed that the two sides should convene bilateral meetings where they would discuss the relationship between religion and [words indistinct] transitional with the aim of arriving at a comprehensive agreement. It was also agreed that a meeting should be convened between the two sides to be attended by leader of the government's delegation, Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, and the leader of [Colonel John] Garang's group, Salva Kir, and three members from each delegation. Tunji Olagunju described that the atmosphere of the talks as fruitful and that it had positive prospects.

Dr 'Ali al-Hajj [Muhammad], the government's official spokesman to the Abuja talks, affirmed in a press statement after the session that the talks were fruitful and (words indistinct) to determine the points (?to be discussed). He affirmed that there is no design to impose religion on others nor to deny any side the right to practise religion—all of us are looking how or the way of [word indistinct] for any side's demands.

Nhial Deng Nhial, the spokesman of Garang's group, noted that at today's session, the two sides decided to discuss two issues: The relationship between religion and the state, and transitional arrangements.

Distribution of Power Discussed

EA0705065093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The sitting held today in Abuja between the government delegation and that of the rebel movement—Garang's faction—chaired by the Nigerian mediation team, discussed issues concerning the distribution of power during the transitional period.

Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, the government's official spokesman, reported that the sitting deliberated on the distribution of powers within federalism and within the framework of the proposal which was presented by Nigeria. Concerning this question, he said, we have some realizations and reservations and it seems there are some kind of fears concerning a number of issues. His excellency pointed out that a committee had been formed to study these questions for the sake of arriving at a reasonable trust. This committee would (?present) its recommendations as soon as possible for discussion by concerned parties.

It is expected that the government delegation and the rebel movement—Garang's faction—will convene a direct meeting this evening as a continuation of the one which was held last night and continued into the early hours of this morning.

Kuwait

Information Minister Denies Violations of Human Rights

LD0505162893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1156 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpt] London, 5 May (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud al-Sabah emphasized that Kuwait is committed to human rights. In a statement today to the Arabic AL-MAJALLAH magazine—which is published in London—he said that the Kuwaiti Government has emphasized its commitment to all the human rights conventions by forming a parliamentary committee for human rights. This committee studies the legislations in Kuwait—particularly the partial laws and those concerning prisons; strives to clear any suspicion of violating civil and political rights; and cooperates with the government organizations in this context.

Shaykh Sa'ud denied the existence of any human rights violations in Kuwait. He pointed out that the reports published by some international organizations on the violations of human rights in Talhah detention prison "are not true and are exaggerated".

He emphasized that all Kuwaiti prisons are open for the concerned international organizations to see on the spot the fallacy of these claims. He pointed out that there are those in Talhah prison who were charged in state security cases and refused to return to their countries after they were acquitted by the Kuwaiti courts, and they are well treated. [passage omitted]

Speaker al-Sa'dun Views National Assembly Role

PM0605103893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with National Assembly speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun by Wafa'i Diyab and Ghunaym al-Mutayri in Kuwait "yesterday"]

[Text] Kuwaiti National Assembly speaker Ahmad al-Sa'dun has said that he cannot avoid talking about the burning issues preoccupying and worrying citizens. This is why he is prepared to sit among the deputies to express his opinion openly.

Al-Sa'dun said that the assembly is going through an experience unique of its kind. And that cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities is still strong and firm. He stressed that the Kuwaiti people are against the saying "let bygones be bygones," especially when the talk is about restoring relations with Jordan and the PLO.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT interviewed Al-Sa'dun in his office at the National Assembly yesterday after his visit to the eastern province of Saudi Arabia, where he met with Prince Muhammad Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and handed to him a message from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah.

Al-Sa'dun said that the message contained an invitation for Prince Muhammad to visit Kuwait as soon as possible in order to give the Kuwaiti people the opportunity to thank him for the help he offered to them during their occupation predicament.

Al-Sa'dun, who was accompanied by Deputy Talal al-Sa'id, said that the visit to the eastern province included al-Khafji and Hafr al-Batin areas, and that it reflected the status of the existing special relations between the two countries.

Al-Sa'dun spoke about Kuwait's relations with the "hostile states." He said that the National Assembly is in agreement with the government on how to tackle this situation. He pointed out that in this situation Kuwait does not treat all these states the same way. The position toward Tunisia, for example, is different from its position toward Jordan or the PLO. He said that relations with these states—except Jordan and the PLO—are moving toward relaxation.

Al-Sa'dun stressed the importance of the role being played by the National Assembly, whether at the political level or at the level of the issues which concern citizens directly. He said that his post as speaker of the assembly prevents him sometimes from expressing his position openly and clearly, which is why he exercises this role in public seminars sometimes.

In his interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Al-Sa'dun denied the existence of any contradiction in work or responsibilities between the National Assembly and the government. He said that cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities is governed by fixed principles which cannot be ignored. However, he pointed to problems which occurred in the past but which have been surmounted, like the disagreement which occurred over the fact-finding committee and so on.

Al-Sa'dun added that the present National Assembly differs from the previous assemblies in its composition, as a result of the occupation crisis. He said that it began to exercise its role in practice since the formation of the government and the participation of six deputies in it. He said that the assembly exerted great pressure on some of these deputies to agree to participate in government, because of its awareness of the delicacy of the circumstances.

Saudi Arabia

AL-BILAD Criticizes Libya's 'Floundering' Policies

LD0505085893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 May 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-BILAD newspaper said: "The Kingdom's large balance of constant and great stances in the service of Islam and Muslims, which are confirmed by deeds, not words, make the overlooking of this fact and the fabrications of lies and worn out slogans by some as a continuation of the sick and floundering

policies by means of which a minority of rulers compensate for their continuous failure to achieve any progress for their peoples." It added that the lies which have been issued recently make us certain that the fabrication of crises has become one of the features of regimes which find themselves in an impasse before their peoples.

AL-BILAD affirmed that the Kingdom greatly distinguishes between the Libyan people and those ruling Libya. Starting from this principle, the Kingdom has welcomed and still welcomes every Libyan who heads for its pure territories to perform the pilgrimage or the minor pilgrimage. The newspaper pointed out that if the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on the countries which exceed the limits of legitimacy and law, it would be neither reasonable nor acceptable for others to violate international law for the sake of the Libyan regime's satisfaction and comfort.

The newspaper said that despite that, the Kingdom has exerted all its efforts with numerous international quarters, including the United Nations, to allow for the transport of Libyan pilgrims by air, and the custodian of the two holy mosques has instructed Saudi Airlines to put all its potential into receiving the Libyan planes carrying the pilgrims. After receiving the foreign quarters' positive reply in appreciation for the Kingdom and its leadership, the Libyan regime surprised us by refusing to transport its pilgrims.

AL-BILAD asked: Then what does al-Qadhdhafi want? Why is there all this floundering and non-adherence to a stance? And what credibility can be expected from the Libyan regime which changes its stances every day with Arab brothers, between demonstrating goodwill which is then followed by feverish campaigns full of grudge?

Prince Sultan Notes Emphasis on Saudi Military Factories

LD0605125493 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpts] Kharj, May 6, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general on Wednesday expressed pride over the great concern being given by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on military factories. He also thanked the personnel of the military factories for their great efforts to promote military industries in the Kingdom. Prince Sultan made the remarks in a press statement he made after he patronized the commencement ceremony held for the sixth batch of the students of the industrial secondary institute and training courses of industrial training centre held at the premises of the General Organization for Military Industries in Kharj. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan highlighted the role of the Saudi engineers and technicians who joined the military industries. He also expressed satisfaction over the contribution of the private sector in this field of industries.

Yemen

President Salih on Elections, Implications

PM0705084993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 93 p 6

[Unattributed interview with President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Sanaa on 2 May]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] How do you generally view and assess the election results? Do you not see some negative aspects, or do you only see positive aspects?

[Salih] We view the success of the election process with admiration and appreciation. It was a peaceful process, thanks to all our people's sense of patriotism and the interaction of all the influential political organizations and parties which cooperated to ensure the success of the elections. The rivals in the elections also lived up to the task of ensuring a sound and successful experiment. There were some violations, of course, but whatever negative aspects or violations there were, they were outweighed by the positive aspects. The negative aspects were a result of some organizational failures. There is also the question of the complaints ... I said on Tuesday [polling day] that any party or candidate who fails would try to contest the honesty of the elections, and that is what actually happened. I have learned that there is more than one complaint by more than one party. Every party hears that one party or another has complained, so they complain so as not to be themselves blamed for any violations. I understand that there are no more than seven main cases. The rest are all complaints by political parties about political decisions. That is harmful to the parties that complain because they blemish the successful election experiment, which, as international organizations and the press testify, was sound, successful, and honest.

[AL-HAYAH] There is, I believe, an important observation to make regarding the results. It is basically that the Socialist Party [YSP] won most seats in the southern and eastern governorates. In other words it swept these governorates but failed to make a breakthrough in the north. Furthermore, the [General People's] Congress [GPC] and the Reform Grouping [YRG] failed to achieve much in the southern and eastern governorates. How do you view this situation, which, some people claim, precipitates division instead of eliminating it.

[Salih] We are sorry that the YSP did not win many seats in the northern governorates and the GPC did not win a majority of the seats in the southern governorates. We would have liked the YSP to win more than 50 percent in the northern provinces and vice versa... The results will certainly be interpreted by the hostile forces and the hostile press as a negative development for national unity, but we regard Yemen mainly as one single constituency with no north and no south, and we are not worried. The success of the elections was a good start. It is regrettable that there was no coordination between the YSP and the GPC. Before the general elections we urged

coordination between the YSP and the GPC without prejudicing or undermining the democratic process, the general elections, or the freedom of the electorate.

[AL-HAYAH] The YSP called for coordination while you called for merger or unification.

[Salih] We have a document called "coordination, alliance, and unification." It still exists and is still under discussion by the YSP and the GPC. At any rate, neither the YSP nor the GPC is worried about what happened or about the results, which we expect the enemies of Yemeni freedom, democracy, and unity to use as an pretext to confuse and distort. You yourself can look at the total number of votes won by the YSP in the northern governorates and the total number of votes won by the GPC, the YRG, and other parties in the southern governorates. Regardless of the results and regardless of who won, we are not worried. There were many positive votes. We know what the YSP won in the north, even though it did not win in Sanaa, for instance, and we know that although the rest of the parties did not win in Aden, they did win votes.

[AL-HAYAH] How, in your view, will the YSP exploit what it achieved in the south in the future?

[Salih] It will use it to strengthen national unity. Every patriot must work on that basis, and so must the GPC.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you envisage GPC-YSP postelection relations?

[Salih] The YSP and the GPC are discussing alliance and the formation of a parliamentary bloc while at the same time giving the influential parties, particularly the YRG, the chance to join the consultations on forming a parliamentary bloc on the basis of commitment to the firm principles and foundations represented as a nucleus by the Charter of Political Action signed by the GPC and the YSP.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you think that such and alliance would impact on the government, in that it would be a coalition government with the YSP and the YRG?

[Salih] That is what will happen.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the YRG be represented in the government?

[Salih] The YRG and the GPC [as published], if they commit themselves to the basis and principles I have mentioned. Anyone wishing to be in the opposition is so entitled, but we will not accept partnership under which any party can be a partner and in the opposition at the same time. So, anyone wishing to join the coalition must withdraw from the opposition, and anyone wishing to be in the opposition must withdraw from the coalition.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you not believe that such a coalition government would make recruitment of the capabilities and figures needed by the country in the next phase unlikely because every party would want to impose certain candidates and that would minimize the number of efficient elements which could be used in various sectors?

[Salih] We will definitely seek to find the technical qualifications and the main cadres without which the system cannot operate. By that I mean the technical cadres for the government.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you envisage the new government? Will it have new faces?

[Salih] Certainly, there must be change and new faces.

[AL-HAYAH] Will the new cabinet be formed before or after the constitutional amendments are approved?

[Salih] We will first proceed in accordance with the constitution. We cannot violate the constitution.

[AL-HAYAH] So will the cabinet be formed before the constitutional amendments?

[Salih] If we agree on the constitutional amendments and if they are ready when the first session of the House of Deputies is held, then we would be able to form the cabinet afterward; but if we do not agree on the amendments, then a cabinet could be formed and followed by constitutional amendments.

[AL-HAYAH] Could you give us a general idea about the constitutional reforms?

[Salih] Defininition of the form of the state's presidency; ending the duplication in the work of the executive, judicial, and legislative authorities; formation of a new consultative council that would have an equal elected number of representatives from the governorates as well as some efficient and influential appointees; and introduction of local government, which is one of the important tasks that will make possible the election of governors and heads of directorates. These are some of the futures of the constitutional amendments.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you envisage the peaceful exercise of power? Do you believe that there should be controls even for the presidency?

[Salih] In our plan, we have limited the presidency to two terms only so that the parties and the leaders would qualify to exercise power.

[AL-HAYAH] How long is each term?

[Salih] Five years.

[AL-HAYAH] Which means that you could leave the government in 10 years time.

[Salih] I might leave the government soon...

[AL-HAYAH] Do you believe that relations with the YRG will be easy?

[Salih] Relations between the GPC and the YSP and the YRG are a national necessity, and they should be in a

coalition framework with common foundations and firm principles and common denominators that would bring together everyone, namely the GPC, the YRG, the YSP, and the rest of the influential parties with a national sense of responsibility. That is because the country needs a strong domestic front that would avoid all the negative aspects which existed in the transitional period. I am optimistic, all the parties are optimistic, and everyone has initiated good self-assessment. The homeland now has three main powers: The GPC, the YRG, and the YSP. The other parties will take their natural places in relation to these powers, some going along with the YRG, others with the GPC, and some with the YSP. We have so far been seeking unification with the YSP. We are still discussing with the YSP the question of unification in the national interest. We in the GPC are still trying to make efforts with the YSP brothers for the unification of the GPC and the YSP with the presence of some strong opposition. Let us assume, for example, that the opposition will be represented by the YRG on the grounds that it would be the main opposition party.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you see any improvement in Yemen's Arab relations?

[Salih] As usual, we are making endeavors to strengthen Yemen's ties with its brothers. There was some coolness in inter-Arab relations in the past because of the Gulf crisis but the situation is getting better now with the clouds clearing and the positions becoming clearer.

[AL-HAYAH] Why did your visit to Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's visit to Sanaa not materialize?

[Salih] I have declined visits outside Yemen since 22 May 1990 (the date of Yemeni unity) because of internal circumstances which required our presence at home. After the emergence of the republic there were the major responsibilities of ending the division and building and strengthening the new state. The concentration was on putting the house in order, but now that the elections have been completed and with the introduction of the constititonal reforms and with the institutions shouldering their responsibilities, we will be able to respond to invitations. We will not hesitate to visit our brothers and friends in consolidation of bilateral relations and enhancement of mutual interests.

[AL-HAYAH] How do you interpret the U.S. interest in the Yemeni elections and democratic experiment? Was it a pre-election interest or an encouragement surfacing after the elections became a reality?

[Salih] There was unfair foreign media questioning of the Yemenis' ability to hold such elections and achieve unity...

As regards the Americans, they encouraged the democratic course in our country from the beginning and welcomed the elections and their success. Their support for elections and democracy in our country was moral and informational support, not material support. Generally speaking, we are satisfied and we are very proud of the international interest, including the American interest, in our democratic experiment. We feel that the world will receive our country's successes in the democratic field with satisfaction, and that will reflect on relations between our country and many states in the world.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you differentiate between the way President Clinton deals with Yemen and the way former President Bush did?

[Salih] We do not see any difference. The U.S. policy is consistent and is based on mutual interests and benefits. We are optimistic that our dealings with Clinton's administration will be positive and advanced, exactly as there was cooperation with the Bush administration.

[AL-HAYAH] In the final stages of the Bush administration, relations with Washington were cool.

[Salih] The Gulf crisis had negative repercussions and effects on U.S.-Yemeni relations, but the situation now is better than before because the Yemeni position was misunderstood. We adhered to all the UN resolutions but had reservations about the war decision because we advocated the Arab solution.

Reportage on 25-Dinar Note Withdrawal, Developments

Death Penalty for Currency 'Crimes'

JN0605200793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued Decree No. 77, amending Penal Code No. 111 of 1969.

The following is the text of the decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq

In the name of the people

The RCC

Decree No. 77:

Dated: 11 Dhi al-Qi'dah 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 2 May 1993.

Decree: In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided to issue the following law.

Law Amending Penal Code No. 111 of 1969.

Article 1: Article 281 of the Penal Code No. 111 of 1969 shall be annulled and replaced by the following:

Article 281: Anyone who personally, or through another, counterfeits or imitates legal bonds or banknotes, be they Iraqi or foreign, with the intention of circulating them; issues these counterfeit or false notes; brings them into Iraq or another country; deals in them or possesses them so as to circulate them or conduct business, while being aware of the nature of these notes, shall be imprisoned for no less than 10 years.

Article 2: Article 282 of the law shall be annulled and replaced by the following:

Article 282: If the crimes stipulated in the previous two articles cause a devaluation of the national currency or state bonds or undermine trust in local or foreign markets or are committed by a group of more than three persons, the death penalty shall be handed down.

Article 3: Article 302 of the law shall be annulled and replaced by the following:

Article 302:

1. Whoever manufactures or possesses a coin-making device, scissors, machines, tools, or other materials used in falsifying or counterfeiting currency or bonds shall be punished by imprisonment of no less than 10 years.

2. Whoever manufactures or possesses machines, tools, or other materials used in counterfeiting or falsifying seals, bonds, or stamps or counterfeiting written documents, to use them for one of the purposes noted above, shall be imprisoned for no more than seven years and no less than three years

Article 4: This law shall take effect as of the day it is published in the Official Gazette.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Among the causes cited for this amendment was the fact that the punishment meted out to those who commit the crimes of counterfeiting or falsifying banknotes or bonds, circulating or dealing in them, possessing the materials for falsifying them, is not acting as a deterrent under the current circumstances and is not compatible with the consequences of these crimes, mainly, devaluing the national currency and undermining trust in local or foreign markets.

Exchange of Banknotes Continues

JN0605113793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 6 May (INA)—For the third consecutive day, the branches of the al-Rafidayn and al-Rashid Banks operating throughout Iraq continue to exchange the 25-dinar banknote, the Swiss version, with its equivalent in the legally circulated national currency, the new version.

A banking source told this to the newspaper AL-QADISIYAH today. He said that in order to conclude the currency exchanges by the deadline set in the decree issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC], the al-Rafidayn and al-Rashid Banks, including their branches in the districts and subdistricts, have decided to extend official working hours to include mornings and evenings. The source indicated that the intensive working hours will continue throughout the week set by this decree, including this Friday, on which working hours will be devoted to currency exchanges.

On the other hand, the paper cites another banking source as saying that the Finance Ministry will soon issue small-size banknotes to facilitate buying and selling transactions.

Financial and banking sources as well as a number of people interested in financial and banking affairs have described the RCC decree to withdraw this banknote as a daring and timely decision. In press statements published here today, they asserted that this decree was issued to totally abolish one of the reasons behind the Iraqi dinar's recent deterioration. They indicated that money exchanges had been carried out in an organized and planned manner by foreign quarters known for their hostility toward Iraq with the aim of paralyzing the Iraqi economy and adversely affecting Iraq's wise fiscal policy designed to overcome the effects of the unjust embargo and the freezing of its assets abroad and confiscation a major part of them. They added that the conspiracy against the Iraqi economy in general and the Iraqi dinar

in particular is an old one and is continuing in many forms, the latest being the accumulation of as many Swiss-version Iraqi banknotes as possible, and smuggling them outside Iraq, as well as speculating in them as part of the economic sabotage operations. They said that this decree was issued in order to increase the Iraqi dinar's value and status against the foreign currencies in a way that will enhance its purchasing power in the local markets.

In another development, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that the Iraqi RCC has issued a decree increasing the penalties for those who counterfeit the Iraqi national currency and those who possess the equipment to counterfeit money. The paper says that the RCC issued Law No. 9 of 1993, amending Penal Code No. 111 of 1969, in order to punish the perpetrators of such crimes.

It is noteworthy that on Tuesday [4 May] the RCC issued a decree withdrawing the 25-dinar banknote which bears the markings "H.P." and setting midnight Monday 10 May as the deadline to exchange it at all banks throughout Iraq.

Borders Sealed, Oil Trucks Halted

NC0605140693 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 6 May 93

[Report by Randa Habib]

[Excerpt] Amman, May 6 (AFP)—The Baghdad government on Thursday [6 May] halted its oil shipments to Jordan, where panic gripped holders of the Iraqi dinar after a decision to withdraw foreign-printed notes from circulation.

The halt to oil shipments by truck came a day after Iraq sealed its borders for a six-day operation to withdraw foreign-printed 25-dinar notes—known as "Swiss" dinars—and replace them with notes printed inside the country.

Jordan imports about 80 percent of its oil from Iraq, 50,000 barrels a day, under an exemption from the United Nations trade embargo against Baghdad since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq allowed two tanker trucks to cross the border after it was closed on Wednesday, but stopped them altogether on Thursday without giving any reason.

In private, officials in Amman protested at the measure against a country whose people backed Iraq during the Gulf crisis.

Iraq has deployed troops along the Jordanian border to curb trafficking and enforce the dinar operation aimed at restoring Baghdad's control over its crisis-hit economy and halting the collapse of the dinar against the dollar. [passage omitted]

Economy Said Crumbling

LD0705103993 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] London, May 7, IRNA—Middle East specialists here are in broad agreement about the significance of Iraq's sudden measure to close its border with Jordan and widely believe it is the most tangible evidence yet of 30-month sanctions on the country. James Whittington of THE FINANCIAL TIMES said that the measures indicate the Iraqi authorities may be losing their economic battle as conditions, particular in the north and in Shia areas, continue to deteriorate. United Nations officials and foreign diplomats, he said, were privately predicting instability in the country, unless the economy recovers soon.

Reporting from Amman Thursday, he spoke of Iraqi travellers saying that those in the former middle class were now having to take two or more jobs and were being forced to sell private assets and family treasures to survive. Christopher Walker for the London TIMES said Western and Arab officials saw the move to invalidate all pre-war 25 dinar notes as the clearest evidence that Iraq's economy was beginning to crumble.

He quoted one diplomat as saying it was "more likely" to be the economy than a bullet that finally gets rid of Saddam Husayn.

Reporting from Cairo, Walker cited evidence emerging last week that the Baghdad regime had been smuggling part of its gold reserves to sell for hard currency. According to unidentified intelligence sources, reserves in the country ran out last year.

The GUARDIAN's David Hirst in Nicosia also heard of Saddam smuggling gold through trusted emissaries, having had payment problems on staple foods. He believed that the "sudden turn for the worse" raised serious questions about the Baghdad regime's ability to go on finding the means to import the food being distributed to the bulk of the population on a subsidized basis.

'Economic War Against Kurdistan'

NC0605161293 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Ankara, May 6 (AFP)—Iraqi Kurdish leaders are examining ways to counter a decision by Baghdad to withdraw foreign- printed dinar notes from circulation, a source close to the Kurdish government said Thursday.

Citing the Iraqi Kurdish finance and economy minister, Daru Nuri Salih, the source said in a telephone interview from Irbil that the operation was "a new economic war against Kurdistan."

On Wednesday, Iraq sealed off all its borders to prevent the smuggling of Iraqi dinars into the country and to pull foreign- printed 25-dinar notes from circulation.

The operation which ends Monday is aimed at restoring Iraq's control over its battered economy and halting the collapse of the dinar against the dollar, according to the Baghdad authorities.

But Iraqi Kurdish leaders see the move as a warning and said the borders between the Kurdish regions in northern Iraq and the rest of the country were also sealed to prevent Kurds from exchanging the notes before Monday.

They are worried that Iraq will pursue its operation by pulling out of circulation foreign-printed five- and 10-dinar notes which can be found in large amounts in Kurdistan.

The source, who declined to be identified, said the Iraqi moves "could deal a fatal blow" to Kurdistan's economy.

The finance minister "has been holding consultations with his experts since Wednesday to find ways of retaliation," the source added.

Note Declared Valid in Kurdistan

NC0605174693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The government of the Kurdistan region issued a statement yesterday, Wednesday, saying that the original Iraqi 25- dinar banknote will maintain its purchasing power throughout Kurdistan. The statement reassured the citizens and asked them to be discreet and vigilant about the Iraqi regime's reckless attempts, which are illogical and do not serve the interests of the Iraqi people. The statement said that the Kurdistan government is watching developments closely and will take the necessary steps to safeguard the interests of its citizens.

Chemicals Dumped in Marshes, Many Poisoned

LD0605182493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 6 May 93

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] announced: Many inhabitants of Iraq's southern marshlands have been poisoned after the Iraqi regime dumped tens of tonnes of poisonous and chemical substances in that area.

The SAIRI statement issued in this regard says: Signs of severe poisoning have been seen in dozens of the inhabitants of the al- 'Amarah marshlands. The statement adds: During the past few months the Iraqi regime has been dumping nuclear substances in that country's southern marshlands in order to hide them from the UN inspectors.

Regime Reportedly Shells Kurdish Villages

NC0605192893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The criminal regime's artillery on Monday [3 May] and Tuesday bombarded the villages of Mardi Saytarun, Marrikh al- Karu, Kamirah 'Umar Mandan, Siwatur, Qaraqah, Dushwan, and other villages in the Shwan area. The barrage did not cause any damage.

Bomb Kills Two in Kurdistan School

NC0605195693 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] A time bomb went off in Qal'at Daja on Monday [3 May] morning, killing two people and injuring another. It should be recalled that Iraqi regime's agents planted the bomb in a place where food is prepared in a primary school. [name indistinct] humanitarian organization sponsors this school and provides food for the pupils.

Rabin on Progress in Washington Talks

TA0705095293 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 May 93 pp 7, 8, 10

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Tzvi Timor and Pe'erli Shahar, in the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem on 5 May]

[Excerpts] ['AL HAMISHMAR] Are you determined to make peace?

[Rabin] I am determined to make peace, but genuine peace, which will be accompanied by security.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Unlike the previous rounds of talks in Washington, the current round seems to be taking on an aura of cautious optimism. What brought about that change?

[Rabin] First, the return to the talks. After a long dry spell without talks, they are being held once again. Second, late last week the Palestinians agreed to go to work in three subcommittees—one dealing with the nature of the concept of the interim arrangement, the second with lands and water, and the third with what they call human rights, in other words, the situation in the territories. So far, the attitude in these committees is businesslike, and the atmosphere is reasonable, although gaps remain. We now know that the talks will continue next week. In other words, there will be three weeks of continuous talks. I am hopeful that if something moves, if might lead to acceptance of the U.S. proposal to hold ongoing talks, even if there are departures for consultations.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What do you think brought the change in the Palestinian position?

[Rabin] I do not know. I judge by the situation, and I do not speculate about how long it will go on. I hope that we will do the things I believe must be done—concerning the contents of the talks and strengthening the status of the Palestinian delegation among the people of the territories—as long as it does not harm our security considerations.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What are we offering them on lands?

[Rabin] We are suggesting to them that our aim be to reach a permanent solution, and that it be done in two stages. The first is an interim stage, and within that framework we have to bring about a change in the existing situation. That means that we are prepared to transfer almost all the functions of the Civil Administration to the executive authority or the self-governing body of the Palestinians as an executive body while we remain responsible for the life of Israelis in the territories. Overall responsibility for security must remain with us.

If I am asked specifically about lands, the trend is that the autonomy, the interim arrangement, will not deal with people cut off from their places of residence, from the fields they cultivate, and the lands they own. It does not refer to a territorial division, but the division of responsibility for managing the land.

['AL HAMISHMAR] And what about what is called state land?

[Rabin] These are not state lands, but private lands. As far as is know, these make up 50 percent of all the lands, including private Israeli lands and lands given to the Palestinians. There are, of course, lands for security purposes and military installations, the border areas with Jordan or Egypt, or Army training grounds. That is the basic concept. The application to land is as I have said before. There might be certain reservations when the purpose of land is changed by agreement.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Another controversial issue was the size of the council.

(Rabin] That is a significant change, not just one of numbers. We are opposed to a legislative institution. In our view, it has to be an executive body. We suggested that it have between 25 and 30 members. We recognize the fact that this body has to have some legislative power. Instead of becoming involved in a dispute over primary and subsidiary legislation, we will discuss what legislation is needed to maintain education or agriculture within their format and framework.

['AL HAMISHMAR] When the talks began this time, Israel made several gestures, such as permitting Faysal al-Husayni to join or announcing that we would permit East Jerusalem Arabs to vote in the elections.

[Rabin] We did not say that. So far, the three committees have not dealt with the problem of the format for the elections in the territories. Therefore, that is not precise. We said that we will not get involved in those issues before we discuss the election of the executive body that will be set up to deal with the interim arrangement.

['AL HAMISHMAR] In reference to the moves we have taken up to now, the question is whether we would have implemented them even without the deportations. In other words, did we have to appease the Palestinian delegation to get it to come to the talks?

[Rabin] I do not deal with hypothetical problems. Our policy is to bolster the standing of the delegation in the eyes of the residents of the territories as long as this does not harm Israel's security.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What additional steps will be taken to bolster it in order to give it legitimacy among its public?

[Rabin] Things are being done according to the progress being made in the talks. We also want to get something from them in return for our moves.

['AL HAMISHMAR] They had a demand this week, which in the meantime has been dropped, to coopt Hanan 'Ashrawi to the talks. If the talks progress in a good atmosphere, is that possible?

[Rabin] I will not deal with personnel issues.

['AL HAMISHMAR] In reference to the issue of the Golan Heights: There are circles there threatening to take very severe action. They have already started to take action; some are on a hunger strike.

[Rabin] Any expression of protest within the law is acceptable in a democratic system. Regarding any threat that violates the law, I have already said and I repeat: No government will permit the Lebanonization of Israel.

['AL HAMISHMAR] At the time, when the Likud government had to implement the Camp David accords, there were those who opposed it and the government used the Army against the settlers.

[Rabin] I do not want to go into that. If the Israeli Government reaches an agreement, it will implement it.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Before that, will there be a referendum?

[Rabin] In today's cabinet meeting, Minister Der'i brought up the clause in the coalition agreement that permits SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], in the event that an accord that includes territorial concessions is to be signed, to demand that a referendum or elections be held first. We will abide by the agreement if the need arises.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Can we not bypass the substantial dispute with the Syrians—that they announce what the nature of peace is prior to our announcement of the depth of our withdrawal—and bring forward the deliberations on the details, such as the nature of the security arrangements?

[Rabin] I think it would be a serious mistake to come and say: I agree, without knowing what sort of peace you are going to have. That is something we would like to avoid. It is true that we are living in the shadow of the precedent of the price paid for the peace with Egypt—a price that included the return of all the territories under Egyptian sovereignty before the Six-Day War and the uprooting of Israel's entire presence. That precedent is and will continue to be a burden for any Israeli Government that wants to reach peace with Syria. We are making an effort in that direction, but at this stage it would be pointless and a serious mistake to say that we accept a full withdrawal, which we want to avoid, without even knowing what sort of peace we will be getting.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Are we on the verge of signing an agreement with Lebanon that refers to a withdrawal to the international border?

[Rabin] We have never denied that there is an international border between us and Lebanon and that we have no territorial claims on Lebanon. The same is true for Jordan. It is possible that because of what has happened in several places—which I will not go into—we will have to find some sort of arrangements linked to land or water.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Can we reach an arrangement with Lebanon on the basis of the international border in return for disarming Hizballah and other terrorist groups?

[Rabin] I did not say that. I only said that we are prepared to reach peace with Lebanon on the basis of the international border. I am not talking about Hizballah but about a full peace with Lebanon, on condition that we are sure that the security of the border settlements is safeguarded and that we also have responsibility for our Lebanese partners in the security zone.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Can you tell us what you mean by what you have just said?

[Rabin] No.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Motions for political arrangements, such as moving directly toward a permanent arrangement or that the permanent settlement be a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, were aired at this week's cabinet meeting. When Mikha Harish left the cabinet meeting, he said that whoever calls for negotiations with the PLO now is in fact sabotaging the peace negotiations. Do you also think that?

[Rabin] I am convinced that the way we are now handling the negotiations is correct. We have channels for dialogue with the residents of the territories and, at this stage, we are discussing interim arrangements which affect only them. I cannot speak too much about it, because nobody shows all his cards while negotiations are under way. I know of no serious country that has to explain all its reasons for making this or that step while it is involved in negotiations. Therefore, I will say in general: We prefer to negotiate with the Palestinian delegation, which is made up of residents of the territories. We are aware that they are consulting with Tunis more and more. I believe that it would be a grave mistake to change that format now.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Have you found a change in 'Arafat's pronouncements recently?

[Rabin] I do not keep track of him on a daily basis, but there is no doubt that in the wake of pressure from the Arab states, he became a party to the positive move to get the Palestinian delegation to return to the talks.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Previously you said that it would be inconceivable to negotiate with open cards. When Begin negotiated at Camp David, it was done secretly. Nothing was brought for debate in the cabinet; they reached an agreement, and only then did they come with the results. Perhaps you should be given power of attorney to conduct the negotiations and present the results, which would then be either approved or rejected.

[Rabin] As far as I know—I am not sure I know everything—a meeting was held in Morocco with al-Tuhami on the eve of al- Sadat's visit, and the only ones in the cabinet who knew were Menahem Begin and Moshe Dayan. Due to the outcome of that meeting, Egypt felt

that the territorial issue would not be an obstacle to peace. Nobody, except for them, knew about it, and when al-Sadat landed in Jerusalem, nobody knew about it. Would al-Sadat have come to Jerusalem without it? I do not know. Al-Sadat can no longer be asked.

The negotiations got bogged down later when they remained bilateral Egyptian-Israel negotiations. When were agreements reached? The first agreement, the Camp David Accord, was reached at Camp David. Two isolated delegations were located in Camp David for 13 days. There were almost no direct negotiations; there was American mediation, and the accords were signed. Even six months later, in order to get the peace accords signed, then-President Carter had to take the trouble to fly first to Cairo, attend the cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, go back to Cairo, and only then was the agreement initialed. There was full American involvement in the achievement of the Camp David accords and the peace agreement with Egypt.

Beyond the full partnership [last two words published in English], I do not say that is what is going to happen. We are still far from that. I think the Americans have a role, and following an understanding with them, they can fulfill a positive role.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you believe that Elyaqim Rubinstein, our representative in the talks with the Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, is conducting the negotiations in an intelligent manner? Should he not have been replaced to express the change in policies?

[Rabin] I believe that in his capacity as delegation head, he is conducting the negotiations very well. He is a civil servant; he is familiar with the policy and willing to implement it. I believe he is doing this with great skill. I have full confidence in him.

['AL HAMISHMAR] One of the people opposing the government's policy is Binyamin Netanyahu. Do you consider him a serious or even dangerous opponent, or is he only using demagoguery?

[Rabin] He may oppose it. This is nothing new. He is doing it in a different manner, on which I will not elaborate. Our problem is not with the Likud; our problem is reaching agreements where they can be made, be it with the Syrians or the Palestinians. Had I believed that we could reach a separate agreement with the Lebanese, I would have done so with them as well. My problem, therefore, is to obtain results that I can live with from the negotiations.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Are the Likud and opposition attacks insignificant?

[Rabin] They are important in terms of the national mood. In general, they are in a bad state today, because the five-week-long closure has proven itself completely—even beyond my expectations—in terms of domestic security for Israeli residents within the boundaries of the State of Israel. Acts of terror, like the one in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo on the former border, can happen. The closure forced them to take a car bomb, similar to the one we seized in Ramat Ef'al, to Mehola, because they feared venturing into Israel's sovereign territory.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you believe that when we reach a peace agreement, the majority of the people will support and express confidence in it?

[Rabin] I do. Israelis do not like hypothetical discussions. They like to determine their stand when they are faced with a real proposal that enables them to weigh its terms. And they will, and sometimes even change the position to which they had been adhering. I believe that the public will accept what I and the government will accept, because I believe the Israeli public wants peace, knows there is a price for peace, and, at the same time, wants to be certain that the peace will not harm national or personal security.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Speaking of the importance you attribute to the government composition in relation to peace, it is worth mentioning that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] has asked not to be the only religious party in the coalition. It claims that it has a certain difficulty, as Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef put it, with Shulamit Aloni's continued stay in the Education Ministry.

[Rabin] I believe the current coalition, with the addition of United Torah Jewry [UTJ] at the most, is the team that can make peace. I do not believe that the National Religious Party or Tzomet, with their current views, could be partners to the moves we are making and believe to be correct. Hence, unless this coalition is preserved or slightly expanded by the UTJ, there is no other government that can make peace according to the guidelines of the current government. I will not refer to the personal issue of Minister Aloni at this time.

['AL HAMISHMAR] SHAS, however, claims that this is precisely its problem.

[Rabin] We will wait and see. I do believe we have a problem which got out of hand, though it is unrelated to political issues, because the argument is not political. I hope we will not reach a situation in which we will have to choose between Aloni as education minister and a chance to attain peace.

['AL HAMISHMAR] What will you do to avoid this situation?

[Rabin] I will make do this definition for the moment. [passage omitted]

['AL HAMISHMAR] We are in charge of employment in the territories for as long as we are in control there. What are you going to do about the serious problem of unemployment that has followed the closure?

[Rabin] We have already allocated $250 million from the budgets for the territories to the creation of jobs. Some of

this is already happening, and we may have to make additional investments. Furthermore, we have offered the Palestinian delegation to be our partner in this, as part of the policy of bolstering the delegation. Most of this budget is being used by the Palestinian local authorities anyway. We are trying to employ manual labor even when machines can do the work in order to increase the number of employed. We have so far allowed 33,000 Palestinians to come work in Israel. The closure prevents the free passage of residents of the territories into Israel's sovereign territory, including united Jerusalem. This does not mean that we could not allow some more to enter, with permits and following inspections. I want to make my decisions on this based on considerations of security, economic needs here, and unemployment there.

Furthermore, I would like to put an end to what seemed like a slave trade in which 50,000 of the 120,000 Palestinians employed in Israel were working illegally. No one knows what wages they were paid; almost no national insurance was paid for them, no taxes were collected from them or their employers, and in several cases the wages were shameful.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Is the closure a permanent or temporary policy?

[Rabin] The closure is not designed to restore the situation to what it was previously. I will not elaborate on this in terms of numbers.

['AL HAMISHMAR] How long will it last?

[Rabin] It will continue, and we will hold weekly reviews of its impact on Israel's security and economic problems and the Palestinian economy in the territories.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Senior defense establishment officials have opposed the closure, saying it is turning the territories into a pressure cooker.

[Rabin] True, there were some in the defense establishment who opposed it. We hold free discussions there, and everyone is entitled to state his opinion. The authorized party then makes the decisions, and everyone is bound to carry out the decision in the best way possible. Incidentally, not everyone was opposed, and some are even saying that their concern regarding the timetable and increasing difficulties have not materialized so far. I am also aware of the increased distress caused by the closure. That is why we have reinforced the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units in the territories. Only last week, six fugitives were killed in Gaza alone and five fled to Egypt. Eleven fewer wanted men constitutes a 15-percent drop in four days.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Some claim that the current closure is preparing the Israeli public for the fact that there will be autonomy.

[Rabin] I do not know what shape the autonomy will have or what the nature of its ties with Israel will be. The primary purpose of the closure was to provide security. We knew that through it, we were providing the bulk of Israel's population with greater security. Of the 5 million Israelis, 4 million of whom are Jews, only 120,000 live in the territories.

['AL HAMISHMAR] When you assumed your post, you spoke of quite optimistic dates for achieving peace agreements. Do you still believe the dates are realistic?

[Rabin] I admit that on the basis of what I was told—and I checked the data with Palestinian elements as well—things did not happen as I thought they would. There is also the reality in which the Arab world counts on American involvement. Not that I take a negative view of this, but I want it done correctly. Nevertheless, this is the reason we spent four months waiting for the U.S. elections —a period which, from our point of view, constituted lost time. I still believe it is possible, provided there is a government in Israel that will continue the current policies.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Do you believe peace is near?

[Rabin] I very much hope so. I regard 1993, mid-1994 at the most, as the time when things will be determined. We all know that political negotiations take time and involve dangers.

['AL HAMISHMAR] Could you give the Israeli public an optimistic forecast regarding the solution of our social and economic problems?

[Rabin] I believe we have an opportunity today to deal with the problem of unemployment on a large scale, provided that unemployment wages are paid only to those forced out of work because of a shortage of jobs. We must determine a reasonable wage level, but we cannot live with having Israel built by a work force of which 40-50 percent is made up of cheap labor from the territories. We must change our concepts and tell people under the age of 35 who are looking for work to work in construction. Is it impossible to find 20,000-30,000 Israelis under 35 to work in construction? This will significantly reduce the level of unemployment in Israel.

Peres on Peace Agreements, Referendum

TA0605181793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said this evening that he does not rule out holding a referendum about agreements made in the political negotiations. At the same time, he believes that presently the matter should be set aside, so as not to disturb the negotiations, and a decision about holding the referendum should be made at another time. According to him, it is even possible that the agreements we will reach with our neighbors will not entail holding such a referendum. Mr. Peres believes that the government most certainly has a mandate from the people to attain peace.

Peres refused to state his opinion regarding Minister Aloni's cabinet status, but said that her dignity should be observed while respecting Judaism. In any event, he said,

the argument between SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] and Meretz is not over political issues, and should be treated as such. Minister Peres was speaking with our correspondent Tzvi Lidar.

1992 Balance of Payments Shows $100-Million Surplus

TA0605103793 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 May 93 p 18

[Pool report]

[Text] Israel's 1992 balance of payments registered a surplus of $100 million, after a $400-million deficit in the preceding year. This is some of the data published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The data shows that the balance of payments surplus was the result of net unilateral transfers in excess of $6.9 billion. The increase was offset by a deficit of about $6.8 billion in the goods and services account.

A further drop of about $400 million in the net Israeli debt to foreign countries was registered last year, following a $90-million drop in 1991. The total Israeli foreign debt grew last year and stood at $33.6 billion compared with $33.2 billion in 1991.

Rabin Meets Visiting Moldovan, Czech Officials

TA0405145493 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 May 93 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between Israel and the former Soviet Republic of Moldova. In a meeting with Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, who is currently visiting Israel, Rabin said that Israel was interested in developing strong economic ties with Moldova. Rabin noted that Israel would accede whenever possible to any request for aid.

Czech Deputy Prime Minister Josef Lux, who is also visiting Israel, invited Rabin on an official visit to the Czech Republic. In the meeting between the two men, Rabin praised Czechoslovakia for the aid it extended to Israel during the War of Independence, and said that Israel considered it a symbol for European countries and democracy. [passage omitted]

Harish, Czech Minister Discuss Trade Opportunities

AU0605123093 Prague CTK in English 1958 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Tel Aviv, May 4 (CTK)—Czech Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture Josef Lux in a meeting with Israeli Minister of Industry and Trade Mikha Harish today discussed truck licenses in view of the Czech AVIA and LIAZ firms' interest in selling cars to Israel.

Lux, who arrived here on a three day visit Sunday [2 May], told Czech journalists after the meeting that Israel was very interested in these cars' deliveries because of their low prices.

In a meeting with Israeli Minister of Agriculture Ya'aqov Tzur, it was agreed that there existed conditions for a free trade agreement to be concluded between the Czech Republic and Israel. Israel has similar agreements with the European Community (EC) countries and with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member states.

The ministers emphasised the need to bring in harmony the two countries' veterinary norms so that mutual trade is not hampered by this obstacle. Lux noted a very low level of Czech-Israeli trade which did not exceed 50 million dollars last year.

Lux and Tzur said they saw possibilities for agricultural cooperation mainly in fruit trade and in irrigation. The Czech minister visited one of the kibbutzes where top standard irrigation equipment is produced today.

Peres Promises Embassy To Open in Eritrea

TA0605134893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has promised the Eritrean prime minister that Israel will set up an embassy in his country. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Mr. Peres spoke with the Eritrean prime minister on the phone, and congratulated him on the results of the referendum that led to the declaration of the new state's independence. The Eritrean prime minister has visited Israel several times for medical treatment, and the details regarding the type of relations between the two countries were agreed on then.

IDF, SLA Shell Targets Following Roadside Bomb Incident

TA0605200093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Shiite fundamentalist Amal organization has claimed responsibility for detonating a roadside charge close to an SLA [South Lebanese Army] unit in south Lebanon today. No one was injured. SLA sappers safely detonated three other charges that were found close by. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA units shelled targets north of the security zone following the incident.

Rabin Cancels Europe Visit Because of 'Coalition Crisis'

TA0705072093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] Executive will meet tomorrow to discuss the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] demand for the ouster of Minister Aloni. It is expected to express support for the

education minister. Stands of support have already been adopted by the Shinuy Council and the MAPAM [United Workers Party] Secretariat. Minister Rubinstein has said that Meretz cannot give in to the SHAS demand.

United Torah Jewry Knesset Member Menahem Porush has said that, besides the issue of Minister Aloni, his party has additional conditions for joining the coalition.

Because of the coalition crisis, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has canceled his trip to Strasbourg scheduled for the beginning of next week. The prime minister was slated to appear before the European Council and had several political meetings on his agenda. This was reported by our political correspondent Shlomo Raz.

Rabin Urges Meretz Compromise, Says Peace Process at Stake

TA0605145393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpt] Both Meretz and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] must understand that what is at stake in the next few days is not personal problems. This was said a short time ago by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in a session of the Labor Party Central Committee. Rabin criticized Meretz for insisting on leaving Minister Aloni at her post. Our correspondent Dov Gilhar reports from Bet Berl:

[Begin recording] [Gilhar] Despite the fact that this session was convened to deal with internal Labor Party procedural matters, the Central Committee members are mainly attuned to the government crisis. Some members urge the removal of Minister Aloni from her post. Knesset Member [MK] Avi Yehezqel, for example, is collecting signatures for a petition calling to remove Aloni. Minister Ora Namir, on the other hand, says that Labor should not accept SHAS' ultimatum. In addition to the political issue, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin addressed the issue of the coalition crisis:

[Rabin] On the eve of an opportunity to score an achievement we should not be dealing with an issue that endangers the integrity of the coalition. I simply cannot understand people from various directions. [changes thought] and our own friends have sometimes contributed to tensions with SHAS, which, as we all know, is very vulnerable to attack by its very nature and due to its positions, essence, and beliefs.

[Gilhar] Despite appearing to address both SHAS and Meretz members, apparently Rabin was mainly referring to Meretz members, in a bid to encourage them to reach a compromise and to accept some kind of formula for removing Aloni from her post:

[Rabin] It is simply hard to believe that people for whom peace is a central concern could create any problem which would cause the coalition to disband. If this happens, let me tell you that in practice this means the end of the peace process. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 6 May carries an initial reaction by Environment Minister Yosi Sarid to Rabin's remarks: "I want to offer my free and humble advice. I propose that no coalition element blame or lay the responsibility on any other coalition element. For example, several months ago Meretz made very difficult decisions which our public did not like at all. At the time we did not complain, did not cry and grouch before anybody else. We shouldered the entire burden of responsibility and confronted our public, and I hope that we did this successfully. We did not try to find any scapegoats. I herewith propose to others to accept the advice which we ourselves took at the time."]

Last of 30 Deportees Returns to Territories

TA0605182193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The last of the 30 veteran Palestinian deportees allowed to return crossed the Allenby Bridge today. Fifty-three-year-old Mahmud Qadri retired two years ago after working for the PLO mission in Sofia. He was unable to leave Bulgaria in time to join the other deportees who returned earlier this week.

PLO Said Preparing Police Nucleus for Territories

TA0605133893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 May 93 p A2

[Report by Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpts] The PLO command in Tunis has had Palestinians undergo security and police training in Arab countries, such as Jordan and Egypt, with the aim of sending them to the territories to form the nucleus of the autonomy police command, Yosef Alpher, head of the Jaffee Institute for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University, said yesterday during a symposium on autonomy within the framework of the peace negotiations, held yesterday in Jerusalem. The symposium was organized by the Truman Institute at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which has set up an Israeli-Palestinian project by Israeli and Palestinian researchers in cooperation with the al-Maqdis Palestinian Institute for Strategic Studies headed by Sari Nusaybah.

According to Alpher, who lectured on security arrangements during the autonomy period, Palestinian police commanders located by the PLO, will be able to enter the territories since they belong to the "Palestinians displaced in 1967." In his view, they will bring practical experience and know-how on security matters, which the territories do not currently have but the PLO does. He said he met abroad several months ago with one of the members of PLO headquarters in Tunis on the plans for the security setup and found that his interlocutor showed

professionalism and know-how on the subject. He also said that the PLO has gained some experience in this field from running the refugee camps in Lebanon. Alpher said that it would be preferable for Israel to negotiate the internal security arrangements with PLO experts. [passage omitted]

He also noted that the Palestinians are showing growing awareness of the need for Israeli-Palestinian coordination and cooperation on maintaining internal security. He said that if Israeli security officials and the Palestinian Force 17 can cooperate on security matters at some point in the future, it will be proof of the success of the security arrangement. In Alpher's view, it will take seven years to totally transfer security matters to the Palestinians, but they can be gradually transferred earlier in accordance with the level of success of the Palestinian force handling that field.

One of the participants, Dr. Mahdi 'Abd-al-Hadi, head of the Fasiyah Research Institute [name as published], responded by saying that the Palestinians are capable of successfully handling all aspects of security, such as dealing with criminal matters and intelligence, but on the condition that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from Palestinian lands and does not intervene in their matters. He demanded that UN forces deploy in the territories as a guarantee that Israel does not recapture them when problems crop up, such as with the settlers. Knesset Member No'omi Hazan, Attorney Jonathan Kuttab, Dr. Nusaybah, and Professor Moshe Ma'oz dealt with other aspects of the negotiations, such as the source of authority and the linkage between the interim arrangements and the permanent settlement.

Dr. Nusaybah, head of the professional teams attached to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, proposed that the Palestinians and Israelis discuss reconsidering the terms of the "Madrid formula" in order to assure that the negotiations go more smoothly and there is a more efficient mutual confidence-building period. In his view, during these discussions a decision should be made on which aspects can be fully transferred to the Palestinians in an initial stage of the peace process, and which should be left until the permanent arrangements are finalized. He also said that the aim of the negotiations should be decided on at the outset, and he believes it should be the establishment of a Palestinian state, thereby making it easier to work out the arrangements and their gradual implementation.

Poll: Majority for Forcible Opposition to Golan Pullback

TA0705115993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 May 93 p 1

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT public opinion poll conducted by Mina Tzemah's Dahaf Institute]

[Text] Question: Some residents of the Golan Heights have said that they would forcibly oppose any government decision to withdraw from the Heights. Do you justify or not justify this position?

Justify	Not Justify	No Answer
53 percent	38 percent	9 percent

Question: Some of the settlers in Judaea and Samaria have said that if a Palestinian police force were established in the framework of the autonomy, they would use firearms against any Palestinian policeman carrying a weapon. Do you justify or not justify this position?

Justify	Not Justify	No Answer
32 percent	67 percent	1 percent

The findings are based on the replies of 530 people, who constitute a representative sample of the adult Jewish population in Israel, excluding kibbutz members. The interviews were conducted on 5 and 6 May. The sampling error is plus or minus 4 percent.

West Bank Commander on Investments in Palestinian Employment

TA0705060793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria says the closure of the territories will be a long-term move and Israel sees it as her responsibility to help provide jobs for Palestinians under closure.

Brigadier General Gadi Zohar spoke at a news conference in Bet El, at which he detailed the infrastructure projects now being implemented. Steve Linde has details:

[Begin recording] [Linde] Gen. Zohar says with government help and approval the Civil Administration is pumping 160 million shekels into more than 400 projects in Judaea and Samaria. At the same time, similar projects have been started in the Gaza Strip over the past two weeks.

Gen. Zohar says the projects include the building of schools and roads as well as replacing outdated sewage, water, and electricity systems. He believes the projects will create between 15,000 and 20,000 new jobs.

[Zohar] This, together with the return of some of the workers to work in Israel, I believe at least will ease the problems that were caused due to this closure of the territories. If before the closure we used to have something between 40,000 to 70,000 Palestinians working in Israel from the West Bank, we now have less than 20,000. So we need to solve the problems of the people that cannot go to work in Israel, and this is why we are doing it here.

[Linde] Do you find a readiness from the Palestinians, from the local municipalities, to work with you and the Israeli Government to develop the local economy?

[Zohar] Yes. I can say that they are very responsible and responsive, and we don't have any problems. On the contrary, they understand that this is for their own benefit, for their own people, and they are cooperating with us.

[Linde] Asked if the closure would be permanent or long-term, Gen. Zohar said: Yes, but just how long would depend on the government. He noted there had been a marked drop in violence in the West Bank since the territories were sealed off on 29 March. [end recording]

Four Wanted Men Caught Near Tulkarm

TA0605150193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The security forces apprehended four members of the Black Panther squad near Tulkarm this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that after the four were identified in the village of al-Nazlah al-Sharqiyah the security forces surrounded the place. The commander of the squad was armed. After the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers fired shots in the direction of the building in which he hid the man surrendered without battle.

Two pistols and an IDF manufactured fragmentation grenade were seized from the suspects. Our correspondent notes that the commander of the squad was wanted for the last two and a half years. He is suspected of having murdered seven residents, among them three women. He is also suspected of having attacked a taxi driver in Netanya and stabbing him with a knife.

Boy Killed, 10 Wounded in Gaza Disturbances

TA0605162093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] A seven-year-old boy was killed in the al-Shati' refugee camp when soldiers fired shots in the direction of stone throwers. The body of the boy was snatched from the hospital. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is investigating this report. Residents in Gaza report that at least 10 residents were wounded by soldiers' gunfire during incidents in the al-Shati' and al-Mughazi refugee camps .

Update on 5 May Incidents in Territories

TA0605120593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 May 93 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpts] Palestinian sources report that nine people were wounded in incidents in the Gaza Strip yesterday, where a general strike was observed in reaction to the slaying by the Border Police of four locals who tried to run down a policeman at the beginning of this week. [passage omitted]

In the township of al-Birah near Ramallah, an Israeli was slightly injured in the head yesterday in a stoning incident. [passage omitted]

Yesterday afternoon, an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit discovered a homemade bomb at the exit of the Hebron District village of Tarqumiyah. A police bomb disposal expert was summoned; he defused the bomb with the assistance of a robot. The explosion of the charge, which was apparently unusually large, badly damaged the robot.

The IDF is continuing to hunt down and capture wanted men in the territories, and crack units are still stationed there as part of the beefed up IDF deployment which resulted from the closure clamped on the territories about a month and a half ago. According to a military source, about 200 wanted men are still at large in the territories, as are numerous weapons and hundreds of accomplices. In the past month and a half, however, almost 50 fugitives and hundreds of accomplices have been captured.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 6 May in a report by ITIM on page 2 adds: "On 5 May, Israel Police officers resumed traffic duties in downtown Gaza city. These duties were suspended after the outbreak of the intifadah.

["Backed up by an IDF and Border Police escort, the policemen are directing traffic in Falastin Square, where driving was earlier almost impossible."]

Economic Impact of Iraqi Border Closure Viewed

JN0705062293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 May 93

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Iraq has banned many oil tankers from crossing into Jordan. These tankers used to cross the borders between the two countries both ways daily to supply most of Jordan's oil needs. Iraq has not specified the duration of this measure which comes following the closure of its borders for six days.

An official Jordanian source has affirmed to our radio that he expects this measure to be temporary and to end upon the expiration of border closure.

Meanwhile, Iraqi helicopters overflew the border areas with Jordan this evening as part of a search and observation mission while hundreds of Iraqi soldiers continue to be deployed along the border.

Responsible Jordanian sources have also mentioned that Iraq has tightened its measures on the borders, which now also cover official and diplomatic delegations that, until now, have been exempted from these measures. The sources said that an Iraqi diplomat accredited to Jordan was sent back from the border by the Iraqi authorities.

No official Jordanian comment has been made on all these Iraqi measures. However, some Jordanian officials have voiced their personal indignation and astonishment at Baghdad's behavior.

Hundreds of citizens, carrying their savings in Iraqi currency, gathered in front of money changers for the second consecutive day in an atmopshere charged with anger at the Iraqi president's measures which they view as an act of ingratitude.

Jordanian police forces were deployed to protect the money changers following some clashes yesterday. Hospitals received several cases of heart attacks and one suicide attempt as a result of the Iraqi decision.

Authorized soures in Amman affirm that most of the Iraqi dinars in Jordan left Baghdad with the knowledge of the Iraqi authorities in exchange for goods, although Baghdad claims that all Iraqi currency abroad is illegal.

Iraqis in Jordan are worried since the Iraqi dinars they had, with which they could secure a living, lost their value.

Minister: Iraqi Oil Shipments To Resume 'Monday'

JN0605173993 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Energy and Mineral Resources Minister 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib has stressed that the movement of trucks loaded with Iraqi oil destined for Jordan will resume on Monday [10 May] after the Iraqi borders are reopened. Iraq has temporarily closed all its borders with neighboring countries in the wake of its recent decision [to withdraw foreign-printed 25-dinar banknotes from circulation].

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the minister said that the Iraqi Government affirmed to the Jordanian Government that [halting] the movement of Jordanian trucks loaded with oil is a routine procedure and will end on Monday. Abu-al-Raghib added that Jordan has sufficient oil reserves to meet the demands of all citizens as usual.

Demonstrators Protest Peace Talks in Camp

JN0705141393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Approximately 1,000 people staged a demonstration following Friday prayers at a Palestinian camp in southern Amman today in response to a call by the Muslim Brotherhood to protest the resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington. The demonstrators accused Palestinian chief delegate Faysal al-Husayni and delegation spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi of treason.

King Husayn Addresses Muslim Scholars' Seminar

JN0405195393 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 May 93

[Excerpt] His majesty the king said that God's gift of Islam should further help people to face up to challenges and uphold human rights. His majesty said during a meeting with Muslim scholars that many people feel deep frustration because their rights are denied. The king said being a member of the Muslim nation and a descendant of Prophet Muhammad is the greatest source of pride for him. The king underscored the importance of closer ties among Muslim scholars in the service of Islam and Muslims around the world.

The scholars representing various schools of Islam are meeting in Amman for the second seminar on Muslim human rights. In remarks during their meeting with the king, they paid tribute to his principled stands and support of Muslim causes and his care for Muslims, particularly those subjected to tragic conditions in Bosnia and Somalia. [passage omitted]

Al-Hariri, Buwayz, Envoy Discuss Israeli Document

NC0705123793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Reliable sources say that following last night's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri met Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, deputy head of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral peace talks in Washington, attended and submitted a detailed report on the atmosphere in Washington concerning the ninth session of the bilateral talks. Discussion focused on the Israeli document received by the Lebanese side and described as positive, but requiring clarification. Ambassador Makkawi, who arrived from Washington yesterday, will hold meetings with high-ranking officials to determine the Lebanese stance on the Israeli document and convey this stance to Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese negotiating team in Washington.

Al-Hariri, Buwayz Leave for Damascus

NC0705155593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, we have learned that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left for Damascus a short while ago.

New French Ambassador Presents Credentials

NC0605211693 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] At the Foreign Ministry, new French Ambassador Michel Chatelais today presented a copy of his credentials to the foreign minister, who will refer it to the president. Describing Lebanon as a beautiful country, Chatelais told reporters: It is difficult for me to talk about anything before presenting my credentials to President al-Hirawi.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 6 May

NC0705070593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Rodriguez Martinez arrived in Beirut yesterday for talks with Lebanese officials on issues of mutual interest. He described his visit as very important.

Diplomatic Ties Established With Turkmenistan

NC0705122293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] A joint communique has been issued on establishing diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between Lebanon and Turkmenistan according to the Vienna Treaty on Diplomatic Relations.

Amal Claims Bomb Attack Against SLA Patrol

NC0605182793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Amal Movement today claimed responsibility for a bomb attack against a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol. Security sources reported that a bomb exploded under an SLA armored vehicle in the central sector of the security zone, inflicting casualties on the patrol members. In a statement issued in Sidon, Amal pointed out that a commando unit from the movement detonated an explosive device while an Israeli [as heard] patrol was passing.

Israeli Aircraft Overfly Areas in South 7 May

NC0705091093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Israeli military aircraft overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning.

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces Peace Talks

NC0605133093 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Apr 93 p 8

[Text] The Muslim Brotherhood movement in Syria has explained its position on the Arab delegations' resuming negotiations with the Israelis. In a statement, it denounced "the series of retreats and concessions characterizing the Arab-Palestinian approach to the Arabs' central cause."

The statement said: "There are those who use international, regional, and local circumstances as an excuse for their ineptitude and weakness and for dealing with false terms coined by the Zionists, the enemies of the nation, terms such as international legitimacy and a just peace. The Zionists have linked every struggle against Zionist usurping, dictatorship, and tyranny with terrorist fundamentalism."

The statement underlined several points, the most important of which is that the ongoing negotiations are based on the Camp David agreements. The enemy wants to divide the Palestinian rank and uproot the intifadah. The negotiations will lead to diverting the Arabs' attention away from the nation's central cause.

The statement said the ongoing negotiations are one of the results of the Gulf war onslaught. Therefore, they are a plot against this nation's fate to impose hegemony and control over it and to end the Arab economic boycott of the Zionist entity. The plot has ideological and cultural dimensions designed to persuade the Arab citizens to live side by side with the Zionist thieves. They are also designed to make the Arab citizen feel defeated culturally and politically.

The statement said the term a just and comprehensive peace is false. It cannot be described as just and comprehensive when it is based on UN Security Resolutions 242 and 338, which will return to the Palestinians only a fifth of their territory.

Papers Comment on Lack of Progress in Peace Talks

JN0605104393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0455 GMT 6 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-BA'TH editorial discusses the peace talks. Under the headline: "The Alphabet of the Syrian Track," the paper says: The Arab parties participating in the peace process have agreed to extend the ninth round for one week. By so doing, these parties have made a new initiative on the peace process after the Israeli procrastination and maneuvers have wasted the round's set time and prevented any serious progress toward the objective set for the peace process; namely, achieving a just and comprehensive peace based on Resolutions 338 and 242 and on the land-for-peace principle.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Arab parties' have always adopted a positive stand toward the peace process, whereas Israel has always maneuvered and evaded this process, adhering to secondary and procedural issues and impossible conditions. Israel has also played with words and phrases. The paper continues: It is no secret that the Israeli game in the ninth round is based on continuing the futile debate in order to gain time and give the impression that the atmosphere of the negotiations is positive on most tracks. Israel has launched a wide disinformation campaign to give the impression that a breakthrough has been made on this or that Arab track and that an imminent agreement will be signed. In fact, scrutiny of the course of all the peace talks can only show that there has not been any breakthrough and that merely new formalities were added. Real promotion of the peace process needs a great miracle.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Arab parties hope that there will be a real breakthrough and that the ninth round will not fail, contrary to the previous eight rounds. Syria, which opened the door to the launching of the peace process, will continue its efforts and will demand that the two cosponsors, particularly the United States, assume their role and responsibility in order to activate the peace process, so Israel may yield to the bases of this process and abide by the resolutions of international legitimacy. Washington should prove its credibility in this round more than ever before, AL-BA'TH concludes.

Discussing the same issue, TISHRIN says: The Arabs have agreed to extend the ninth round of talks for a third week, stemming from their great eagerness to activate the talks and give the peace process a new opportunity to adopt constructive and positive measures, so Israel may abandon its no's, conditions, and intransigence, and may actually contribute to peacemaking through practical steps.

TISHRIN adds: Following two weeks of talks and six sessions in the ninth round, Israel has disclosed its adherence to the obstacles which it placed and has not offered anything new to activate the talks. Given this, it is natural that Israel should not be permitted to continue its maneuvers and tricks. It is also natural for the United States to dot the i's and cross the t's in order to save the peace process.

TISHRIN affirms that the peace efforts have defined the path of a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. The foremost step to achieve peace is that there should be an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: All Israeli falsehoods have been exposed because they evade the requirements of peace. Accordingly, the Rabin government is responsible for the outcome, effects, and consequences which may result from this evasion.

Joint Communique on German Minister's Visit

JN0605163693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 6 May (SANA)—A joint communique was issued in Damascus and Bonn today at the end of the visit to Syria by German Foreign Minister Dr. Klaus Kinkel on 4-5 May. Following is the text of the communique:

Dr. Klaus Kinkel, foreign minister of Federal Germany, paid an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic on 4-5 May 1993, heading an official delegation during which he held talks with Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic.

President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received the German minister during his visit.

During their talks, al-Shar' and Kinkel discussed bilateral political, economic, and cultural relations, as well as relations in other fields, and expressed their satisfaction with the results they achieved, and stressed their determination to bolster and develop these relations in various sectors.

The two sides stressed their desire to implement the joint statement issued on 16 September 1991, which calls for the following:

1. Forming a joint committee headed by foreign ministers of the two countries. The committee will be assigned with developing and strengthening relations of cooperation and friendship between Syria and Germany in various fields, and implementing bilateral agreements, accords, and programs of cooperation.

2. The committee convenes at the ministerial level once a year, alternating between the two countries.

3. Preparations for the joint committees' annual meeting are made by specialized experts from both countries.

4. Dates for the ministerial and experts' meetings are set through diplomatic channels.

Both sides have agreed to promote and deepen economic relations within the framework of the joint committee. Experts from both countries will meet to discuss all economic issues and pending matters between the two countries, with the aim of promoting and intensifying economic relations and encouraging mutual investment in the interest of both countries. The two sides expressed great interest in continuing and intensifying high-level bilateral contacts.

The two sides have discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process. They welcomed the negotiations which started in Madrid on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. They also welcomed the talks in Washington, which resumed on 27 April 1993 with the aim of reaching a just, comprehensive, and durable solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The German foreign minister expressed appreciation for Syria's constructive and intensive efforts toward coordination among the Arab parties to the peace process to help resume the peace talks in Washington.

Minister Kinkel reviewed the situation in Europe, inter-European relations, and the efforts being exerted to secure all EC member states' approval of the Maastricht treaty.

Minister al-Shar' reviewed developments in the Arab world and the Gulf region in particular. In this regard, both sides affirmed the importance of promoting EC-Arab relations, in general, and EC-Syrian relations in particular.

The two ministers expressed their determination to continue their contacts within the framework of the close relations serving the interests of both countries.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel invited Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to visit Bonn, so as to continue bilateral consultations on the level of foreign ministers.

[Dated] Damascus, 5 May 1993

[Signed] Klaus Kinkel, foreign minister of Federal Germany; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister of the Syrian Arab Republic

Afghanistan

'Worst' Cease-Fire Violation in Two Months Noted

BK0605163293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1543 GMT 6 May 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, May 6 (AFP)—Bloody fighting between government troops and Shiite mojahedin erupted here late Thursday afternoon, frontline soldiers said, describing the worst cease-fire violation in two months.

Tank and rocket fire exchanges resulted in heavy casualties, they said.

Police commander Nik Mohammed said clashes with the Shiite Hezb- i-Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] faction had left four of his men dead and three wounded. At least 20 civilians also hurt in his sector, he said. [sentence as received]

"The shooting started for no reason. Wahdat just began indiscriminate shelling," Mohammed said.

Locals near the commander's frontline post behind Dehmazang Square in south Kabul said the clashes were instigated by Wahdat in retaliation for the theft earlier Thursday of a bicycle belonging to a Shiite civilian.

On the boulevard leading to the square, Defence Ministry troops manning a Soviet-made BMP-1 fighting vehicle fired salvos of high- explosive shells at Wahdat positions in the occupied former-Soviet Embassy.

Machine-gunners blazed away from road-side bunkers in the direction of Kabul Zoo, which they mistakenly thought had been captured in a Wahdat advance.

Wahdat fighters fired six long-range rockets into the neighbouring hillside and, soon after, the body of a civilian fatality—a young boy—was carried down on a bed.

An anti-tank rocket fired by Wahdat at one of the police commander's bunkers wounded one of his men, who was carried away on the back of a comrade.

The last serious fighting here ended with the signing of the March 7 cease-fire agreement at Pakistan capital Islamabad. Tension has however remained high on the frontline, because of mojahedin leaders' failure to make headway over forming a cabinet.

Mojahedin leaders are currently meeting in the eastern provincial capital Jalalabad to try to settle differences over the establishment of a representative government.

Civilians and soldiers alike were highly critical of the leaders.

"These leaders are just sitting and gorging themselves at the dining table while we are killing each other," said one disgruntled government soldier. "I have joined up just to protect my sister from rape, not to benefit these leaders who seek power for their own benefit.

Foreign Ministry on U.S. Statement on Afghanistan

LD0605184193 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] A statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan issued in connection with a statement by the U.S. acting assistant secretary of state which was broadcast at 1945 on 27 April 1993 by the Voice of America reads:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Islamic State of Afghanistan marked its first anniversary after the victory of the glorious Islamic revolution which was the result of the 14 years of jihad, hard work, and struggle by the mojahed nation of Afghanistan. As a result of this struggle, a large number of our Muslim brothers and sisters were martyred or disabled.

In connection with the statement issued by the U.S acting assistant secretary of state, the Islamic State of Afghanistan declares that the foreign policy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan is based on observing international norms and respecting human rights and it works seriously toward the development, progress, and reconstruction of war-torn Afghanistan. Despite the many difficulties and obstacles, the Islamic State of Afghanistan strives to form a broad-based government and to meet the people's aspirations.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has put at top of its policies the struggle against the cultivation, production, and trafficking of deadly and poisonous narcotics and will act seriously in this connection.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan has declared freedom of the press, speech, and movement aimed at creating a safe and calm climate for the long-suffering people of Afghanistan; it gives permission for legal activities to all political parties which defend the interests of the people provided they are not against the Mohammadan Shari'ah laws and the current laws of the country.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan respects the lawful rights of all the world's nation and will not allow any force to use the territory of Afghanistan as a military base against its neighbors or any other country. It has full belief in this fact that with the help of almighty God and in light of the sacred Islamic laws it will achieve its aims and goals. Success comes from God.

Bangladesh

Third Round of Talks With Shanti Bahini Set

BK0705080993 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 4 May 93 p 1

[By Hasan Shahryar and Torun Kumar Bhattacharjee]

[Text] The third round of talks between the Bangladesh Government and the Shanti Bahini [tribal insurgents] with a view to resolving the Chittagong Hill Tracts [CHTs] problem will be held in Khagrachari District on 22 May. In this regard letters have been exchanged between the government and the CHTs People's Solidarity Council [political wing of the Shanti Bahini]. It is learnt that this date for the meeting has been fixed after receiving the 'green signal' from the Shanti Bahini.

In the meantime, the leader government committee on CHTs, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed has left for India on a seven-day visit. He will reach Tripura on 8 May. On the same day, four MPs [members of Parliament] who are in the government committee on CHTs along with senior officials will go to Tripura from Bangladesh. This team led by Oli Ahmed will visit six Chakma refugee camps in Tripura. The Bangladeshi minister is also likely to meet the chief minister of Tripura, Dasarath Deb. Observers feel that the success of the third round of talks between the government and the Shanti Bahini will depend on the outcome of the meetings between the visiting Bangladesh delegation with Indian leaders and officials.

The four MPs who will go to Tripura to hold talks with the Chakma refugees are Mohammed Shahjahan—Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Wahidul Alam—Bangladesh Nationalist Party; Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury—Awami League; and Shahjahan Chowdhury—Jamaat-i-Islami.

This news regarding the third round of talks between the government and the Shanti Bahini was divulged by the convenor of the CHTs Liaison Committee, Mr. Shangshdhajan Chakma, who returned to Khagrachari [District of CHTs] on 2 May after staying in the Dhaka for five days. The convenor further disclosed that during his stay in the capital he held extensive discussions with the secretary of the Special Affairs Division [government department looking after CHTs affairs], Mr. A.M.M. Nasrullah Khan, on the latest letter sent by the People's Solidarity Council and the holding of the third round of talks.

This third round of talks was earlier scheduled to be held in the first week of February. Then it was rescheduled for the last week of April. For the holding of this meeting, the People's Solidarity Council agreed to a proposal given by the Bangladesh government and extended the time limit of the ceasefire in CHTs till 31 May. For this reason the third round of talks is very significant. The proposed meeting will hold discussions on the five-point demands of the People's Solidarity Council which includes repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees, withdrawal of Bengali settlers from CHTs, release of prisoners, and granting of regional autonomy.

The nine-member Bangladesh government team to this third round of talks will be led by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed while the five-member Shanti Bahini delegation will be led by the president of CHTs People's Solidarity Council, Jotirindra Bodi Priya Larma alias Santu.

Garment Exports Record 40 Percent Increase

BK0505065893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 4 May 93

[Text] Bangladesh has earned 56 billion taka by exporting ready-made garments to various countries of the world last year. This was disclosed by the chief of the exporters association at a news conference in Dhaka today. He said the earnings last year was 40 percent higher than the 40 billion taka recorded in the previous year. The fourth Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exhibition, BATEXPO, opens in Dhaka tomorrow. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the four-day show. Garments manufacturers and exporters of Bangladesh, South Korea, India and Pakistan will take part in the exhibition organized by the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

India

Update in Wake of Unrest in Manipur Area

Army Deployed To Control Violence

BK0605163693 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Army today took up positions throughout Manipur to deal with the unrest which has claimed 86 lives in Thoubal and Imphal Districts. Soon after visiting the clash affected areas in Manipur valley today, the union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, told newsmen that the Army took up positions at 1530 this afternoon. He said anyone found indulging in violence would be sternly dealt with. Mr. Pilot blamed police inaction for the clashes. He asked the chief minister to take suitable action against the erring officials. He said a judicial inquiry into the current violence has been ordered by the state government and the inquiry will be conducted by a sitting judge of the high court. Mr. Pilot said he would submit a detailed report to the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, on the Manipur situation.

Indefinite curfew has been clamped in Imphal and Thoubal Districts for the last three days. Curfew was relaxed for four hours today from 0900 this morning to enable people to buy essential items. It was reclamped in the afternoon.

Police Chief Placed 'on Leave'

BK0705082593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The Manipur government has asked the state's director general of police, Mr. A.V. Middil, to go on leave. Disclosing this to the AIR [All India Radio]

Imphal correspondent this morning, the chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorendra Singh, said the step has been taken in view of several lapses on the part of the police in handling the current violence. The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, had observed yesterday after visiting some of the affected areas that the situation would not have deteriorated if the police had taken timely action. Mr. L. Jogeshwar Singh, inspector general of police has taken over the charge of the DGP [Director General of Police].

'Considerable Improvement' in Situation

BK0705035493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] In Manipur, there has been considerable improvement in the situation in the areas affected by violence which erupted on Monday. Police sources say there has been no report of any untoward incident from the curfew-bound areas of Imphal, Thoubal, and Vishnupur Districts during the past 12 hours. In Imphal District, curfew has been extended till 9 a.m. tomorrow as a precautionary measure. However, curfew will be relaxed from nine in the morning to three this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Manipur chief minister, Mr. R.K. Dorendra Singh, has said that 353 persons suspected to be involved in the violence have been arrested. Talking to AIR [All India Radio] Imphal correspondent, the chief minister said the government is identifying the localities where the punitive fines are to be imposed. The state government has opened four relief camps in Imphal.

Five Kashmiri Leaders Barred From Going to Mecca

BK0605165093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1639 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] New Delhi, May 6 (AFP)—Police stopped five Kashmiri leaders from leaving India for Saudi Arabia on grounds that the visit was aimed at drumming up support for Muslim separatists in the state, officials said Thursday.

Four of them were stopped at the New Delhi airport late Wednesday and the fifth on Thursday before they could board planes with Muslim devotees, ostensibly to participate in the annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

The five Muslim leaders had given the pilgrimage as their reason for going to Saudi Arabia, but the government had information that they planned to meet sympathisers of the Kashmiri separatist campaign, the officials said.

Police identified two of the leaders as Mian Abdul Qayoom, chief of Hurriey-i-Kashmir, an umbrella organisation of the militants, and Maulana Abbas Ansari of the Muslim United Front, a former Kashmiri political party.

Some 1,300 Kashmiri Muslims have been cleared so far this year to take part in the annual pilgrimage, police added.

In Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, Muslim religious leaders and civilians condemned the Indian Government decision to stop the five from making the Hajj.

"This is a direct interference in our religious affairs. This will not be tolerated," said Umer Farooq, chief priest of Kashmiri Muslims.

The Bar Association added: "This has exposed the Indian secular set-up," a reference to the Indian Government's assertion that the country is a secular one, even though Hindus make up a clear majority.

A spokesman for the Hezbul Mojahedin, the most powerful of the Muslim separatist groups, said the travel ban "justified our struggle for accession to Pakistan, where we will have all the religious freedoms."

Sovereignty over Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, is disputed by Pakistan, with India controlling two-thirds of the region and Pakistan the remainder.

Parliament Briefed on World Bank Relations

BK0705091293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, told the Lok Sabha during question hour today that any conditionality set by the World Bank not in the interest of our country will not be acceptable to the government. Earlier, the minister of state for finance, Dr. Abrar Ahmad, told the House that the broad recommendations of the task force to improve the World Bank's development lending strategy are in consonance with the Government of India's views on the matter. On the issue of verification certificate by a third party, he said the World Bank has accepted the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as a third party for auditing all ongoing projects in the country.

U.S. Pressure on Trade Issues Criticized

BK0605125993 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 24 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "The United States Too Has To Ponder"]

[Text] When China declared that it would pursue an open-door policy a decade ago, the United States and Western Europe together gleefully welcomed it. During the last 21 months, India effected many policy changes. These changes have been much more rapid than those of China, but even then the international community has not been satisfied. The United States wants India to make further policy changes and it is using pressure tactics to achieve this. In 1989, it listed India under the Super 301 provisions and threatened to put restrictions on Indian exports. It also tried to force India and other

developing countries to toe its line at the GATT forum. Despite being put on the watch list under the Super 301 provisions, India did not bow to the United States pressure. The United States did not retaliate against India; pressure on India was more on the diplomatic front, less on the economic front. It also fulfilled its diplomatic objectives this way. Its diplomacy worked at negotiating forums like GATT. But because of its differences with the European Community, the GATT negotiations are not being concluded. So far, there has been no international agreement on the draft GATT proposals put forward by GATT Secretary General Arthur Dunkel. Now that Clinton has come to power, the GATT future does not look very bright.

The United States is putting all kinds of pressure on India through unilateral actions. It has withdrawn some concessions given to India under the Generalized System of Preferences. The United States wants India to change its Patent Law even before an understanding is reached on the Dunkel proposals. But currently such a sharp nation-wide debate on the Dunkel proposals is taking place in India that it will not be easy for the Indian Government to accept these proposals as they are. Enough discussion have also taken place on the patent laws linked to the Dunkel proposals. Even Vice President K.R. Narayanan has expressed concern at taking any decision that will indiscreetly increase the prices of pharmaceutical drugs. Supporters of Dunkel and opponents of the current patent laws have so far been unable to come forward with facts that will prove that the new patent laws framed under U.S. pressure will not increase the drug prices or that the country's agriculture will not increasingly be tied by foreign shackles. Whether the Indian Government yields to U.S. pressure or not is a matter of its own that it has to ponder. However, the main question is how far the United States—India's biggest trading partner—will apply pressure on India. The more important thing is that it is also India's largest export market. Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Indian producers have become more dependent on the U.S. market. The United States could put India under pressure by threatening export restrictions, but it cannot be overlooked that the United States is also the biggest investor in India. If India's policies have been contrary to what it wanted, why is it that its investors have come to India? It is in the interest of the U.S. investors that the United States stops putting pressure on India concerning the patent laws issue and tries to understand the problems of a developing country in their totality.

U.S. Trade Issues, GATT Negotiations Viewed

BK0605130793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 May 93

[Commentary by Dr. C. K. Bannerjee, Special Correspondent of INDIAN OBSERVER]

[Text] President Clinton's economic plank for the successful 1992 election gamble gives credence to the Democratic Party's traditional image as inward-looking champions of protectionism. It is precisely in the light of this that the new U.S. trade representative's, Mickey Kantor's, decision last weekend to place India along with Brazil and Thailand on the list of priority foreign countries for exploring future retaliation did not come as surprise to trade policy watchers here. It had to come one day or another. The Special 301 provision of the Omnibus Act relates to the inadequate protection by foreign countries to intellectual property rights such as patents, copyrights and trademarks. The possible areas where the retaliation could be resorted to come about the withdrawal of concessional duty under the Generalized System of Preferences and imposition of higher tariffs for certain imports from India [sentence as heard]. It may be mentioned that the United States has already suspended duty-free treatment on imports worth $80 million from India by denying privilege to New Delhi available to developing countries under Generalized System of Preferences last year.

This, however, comes into conflict with the role and authority of the multilateral trade negotiations under the auspices of General Agreement on Tariff and Trade—GATT—currently underway as the issues raised by the United States under its Special 301 provisions bilaterally come under the purview of GATT. Especially, the Special 301 (?authorizes) the U.S. Trade representative to identify those foreign countries that deny an adequate effective protection of the intellectual rights or deny sale and equatable market access for those relying on the intellectual property protection and to determine whether these countries are priority foreign countries. Priority foreign countries are those countries who practices are more [word indistinct] to have the adverse impact, actual or potential.

The list of countries against whom the United States has taken or proposes to take action goes on increasing year after year. Hungary and Taiwan are on the priority watch list subjecting them to investigations during the next few months and eight other countries, including Egypt, Argentina, South Korea, Poland and Turkey, will be on the priority watch list and subjected to a review. It is being increasingly felt that sincere and concerted efforts should be made to speed up the early conclusion of the Uruguay Round so that the issues raised by the United States could be resolved through the GATT, where they pertain to. In fact, the delay in the early conclusion of the Uruguay Round has come handily for the United States to enforce its will on the multilateral issues, for instance the patent regime, which is under negotiations under the current GATT talks. It is also widely known that it is the United States and the European Community that are mainly responsible for the delay in the conclusion of the Round, dragging in its seventh year from the stipulated four years, by first failing to resolve their difference on the farm trade and now on the government procurements in the U.S. and the EEC. It is pertinent to observe,

though, that the larger trading powers like the United States have preferred to pursue matters bilaterally. But as far as using the powers of the 1988 act is concerned, it has chosen to serve notice on the relatively smaller economic powers. The former Bush administration took certain action under the Special 301 provisions, but, while those steps seem in retrospect to have been intended for more than placid domestic lobbies demanding greater protection and support for U.S. goods, the Clinton administration seems intent to translate threats into punitive action. This in the case of India will mean penal duties on whatever products from India that the United States identifies for retaliatory action.

PRC Places Order for 4,500 Tons of Steel

BK0705092293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The government is considering the recommendations made by a committee set up to obtain bids for private participation in the public sector Indian Iron and Steel Company, IISCO. Disclosing this in the Rajya Sabha during question hour, the minister of state for steel, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, said that IISO has received a number of export inquiries. He said an export order for 4,500 [metric] tons of structural steel from China is in the process of finalization. He said in case the domestic demand continues to be sluggish, IISCO has plans to export around 75,000 tons of iron and steel during the current financial year.

Rao: MiG-21's To Be Phased Out by 2002

BK0605095593 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] New Delhi—Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao announced in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday that the National Security Council (NSC) would be resurrected and MIG-21 fighters would be phased out and replaced by light combat aircraft by 2002.

Replying to the debate on demands for grants for the Defence Ministry, the Prime Minister said constituting the NSC for certain long-term purposes might be a good idea and this was being examined. He did not elaborate the purposes.

The Prime Minister's 41-minute speech was heard from the visitors' galleries by, among others, Air Force Chief N.C. Suri, Naval Chief Ramdass and a number of senior officers of armed forces.

Rao said there was a view that since defence matters involved speedy decision, secrecy and strategic planning, a formal machinery might not be successful.

He, however, felt the NSC might be good and "a review had been ordered to establish it."

The Prime Minister informed the House that the decision to phase out MiG-21 fighters had been taken by the Union Cabinet on April 20. He refuted the charge that the recommendations of the Arun Singh Committee on streamlining defence expenditure had been shelved. A decision had been taken on the first of the six volumes of the report relating to the size of the Eighth Plan. It was not correct to say that the whole report had not been accepted, he said.

Prime Minister gave a resume of the security environment globally. He said there was a modicum of peace prevailing at the global level but the regional conflicts had assumed new dimensions. "The end of the cold war has not ended our troubles," said.

The House approved by a voice vote defence demands of about Rs [rupees] 19000 crore after rejecting all cut motions.

Nepalese King on State Visit, Talks With Officials

King Birenda Arrives 6 May

BK0605150393 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The king of Nepal, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, has arrived in New Delhi on a week-long state visit this evening. On arrival, he was given a warm welcome by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, at a a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House].

Speaking to newspersons on the occasion, King Birendra said that he hopes the current visit will further strengthen traditional relations between the two countries. He said people in Nepal have always appreciated the assistance from India in so many different areas of developmental activities.

King Birendra later called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. The president will host a banquet in honor of the visiting dignitary tonight. King Birendra is accompanied by Quenn Aishwarya Raj Lakshmir Devi Shah and the minister for law, justice and parliamentary, Mr. Maheshwar Prasad Singh. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will hold talks with King Birendra on Saturday.

Sharma Hosts Official Dinner

BK0705032893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has said that India is proud to contribute to Nepal's development as its partner. He was speaking at the banquet hosted by him in honor of the visiting Nepal king, Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev, and Queen Aishwarya in New Delhi last night. Dr. Sharma said the two countries have all the necessary conditions to further strengthen their friendly and cooperative relationship. He said, we share ties of kinship, values, spiritual belief, history, geography, and cooperation in many fields.

King Birendra, in his speech on the occasion, thanked India for its cooperation in vital sectors such as health,

education, human resources development, transportation, and communication. He hoped the areas of cooperation for mutual benefit will be enlarged in the coming years. The king said in the changed global scenario following the collapse of the old international order, a regional outlook, however, painstaking it may be should be adopted for the well being of both the countries.

Commentary Views Relations

BK0705053493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 May 93

[Ratan Saldi Commentary]

[Text] The week-long visit to India by King Birendra of Nepal which began yesterday reflects the keen desire of the two countries to consolidate their traditional friendly relations. It is indeed, significant, that the king has chosen India for his first state visit to a foreign country after the restoration of democracy in Nepal.

In fact, there had been regular exchanges at the highest level between India and Nepal, and King Birendra is no stranger to this country. His first state visit to India was in 1973 soon after taking over the reigns of his country. And since then he has paid several visits to India. The former Nepalese prime minister and president of the ruling Nepali Congress, Mr. Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, and the prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, visited India in 1990 and 1991. Among the distinguished Indian leaders to visit Nepal are Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, Gani Zail Singh, and Mr. Narasimha Rao.

During his present stay in the country, King Birendra will visit some religious places in Orissa and Tamil Nadu besides holding talks with the prime minister and the ministers of home, finance, commerce, and external affairs.

The two countries share common views on many national, regional, and global issues, and have a very strong people-to-people relation. In fact, these relations date back to more than 2,500 years when Guatam Buddh [Lord Buddha] brought the message of love and compassion to India from Lumbini in Nepal. The two countries also enjoy excellent trade relations with open borders for easy flow of men and material. Thousands of Nepalese citizens are working in India and Indians in Nepal. Being a landlocked country, Nepal depends on India for its supplies of foodgrain, coal, power, machinery, and other goods. Several joint ventures in the fields of health, road construction, and hydel power are in different phases of implementation. The liberalization of their economies by the two countries has opened new vistas of cooperation for the mutual benefit of their people. And, the present visit by the king will help these two neighboring countries to take steps in that direction.

Iran

Political Negotiations With Iraq To Resume

NC0605195193 Paris AFP in English 1901 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 6 (AFP)—Iran and Iraq will soon resume political negotiations aimed at settling outstanding bilateral problems, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted Thursday as saying. He told a meeting of religious officials that an Iraqi delegation would be visiting Iran to discus the issues, the daily RESALAT quoted him as saying. But it gave no details on when the group would arrive. Velayati did not say at what level the discussions would be carried out. The decision on resumed talks was made by Velayati and his Iraqi counterpart, Mohammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, on the sidelines of last week's ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Karachi, RESALAT said. Iran and Iraq suspended their talks in August 1991. "Eight years of war have complicated relations between our countries, but we plan to settle the problems with Iraq," Velayati said. Iran and Iraq fought a bloody war from 1980 to 1988. A delegation from Baghdad came to Tehran in August 1991 in a bid to normalize relations and several contacts have since been made between the two countries but nothing has to date yielded results. In March, Velayati called for better relations between Tehran and Baghdad.

Benefits of Improved Relations Viewed

NC0705112893 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 21 Apr 93 p 12

[Ruzbeh Buolhari commentary: "America's Policy of Barricading Iran"]

[Text] At a time when U.S. analysts are busy discussing Washington's future relations with Tehran, Kuwait's AL-WATAN has published a commentary on how the United States intends to separate Iran from its neighbors.

The victory of the United States and its allies in the Persian Gulf war known as "Desert Storm" led to the implementation of the White House's new world order in the Middle East. The principles of this new world order consisted of establishing peace between the Arabs and the Israelis, ensuring the safety of the West's interests in the Persian Gulf, and stifling the Islamic-national anti- imperialist movements in the region. The West wanted to exploit the fear and intimidation that it had sparked off in the region and to establish its diktat in the deadly silence that this fear had spread. But one element prevented it from doing so, and this was the Islamic Republic of Iran with its leadership role in the region's anti-imperialist movement.

At any rate, even though two years have passed since the "Desert Storm" operations and even though the West and the United States continue to remain in the region, an Islamist government has come to power in Sudan, Algeria's FIS [Islamic Front Movement] continues to

survive despite the militarists' severe suppressive measures against it, and there are incidents indicating that there is instability in the region's pro-Western countries.

Therefore, the United States is now trying to sign a series of military-political pacts and wrap a belt around Iran in a bid to isolate it in the region and to thus gain its final objective. This military-political belt is made of:

—A security pact in the Persian Gulf that does not consider Iran's role in providing this security;

—The creation of a regional security pact similar to NATO in Central Asia and the Caucasus as proposed by the NATO secretary general last year;

—Harming the healthy relations between New Delhi and Tehran and obstructing the two countries' economic cooperation;

—New Delhi's relations with the United States have expanded during the past few years. Meanwhile, political observers believe that Washington has envisaged a special role for India in its plans for the Indian Ocean area and that the United States hopes that through this role, India ultimately will confront Iran;

—Turkey: Because of its membership in NATO, Turkey has always been within the framework of the West's policies in the region;

—Iraq: During the Persian Gulf war, the allied forces led by the United States did not continue the war until the Iraqi Government fell for two reasons. One was their fear of becoming involved in an extensive guerrilla war in Iraq, and the other was their concern that the opposition groups would be strengthened and move closer to revolutionary Iran.

At any rate, at a time when reports speak of a gradual improvement in Baghdad-Tehran relations, it seems that Washington's views on the current Iraqi Government and on the opposition forces have changed and are now milder than before.

Of course, by implementing its "carrot-and-stick" policy, the United States is trying to pull Iraq toward it. This policy by the United States and its allies consists on the one hand of bombing some parts of Iraq, military exercises in the Persian Gulf, sending delegations from Turkey and Britain to Kurdistan in northern Iraq, and so on, and on the other of encouraging Iraq to rise against the Iran in order to be reaccepted by Arab and world circles.

Therefore, the White House is trying to draw Baghdad closer to it and to use it once again as the tool for implementing its anti- Iranian policies in the region. But in addition to weakening relations between the two countries, this ultimately will set these two countries apart, much to the benefit of the U.S.-Western military policy, and will help them to implement their plans in the region.

This comes when experts like Fred Halliday [name as published] and regional newspapers like AL-WATAN in Kuwait have stated that "Iranian-Iraqi cooperation can upset the plans of the United States and its allies for a strategic balance in the Persian Gulf."

Meanwhile, to prevent the implementation of U.S. policies in the region and also to save Baghdad from falling into an endless pit, it is necessary for Iran to strengthen its relations with regional countries, namely Iraq, and to start cooperation in various fields. These fields are:

—Cooperation to ensure regional security away from foreign intervention in a "demilitarized Persian Gulf";

—Unified action in OPEC;

—Regional cooperation to prevent the Palestinians' rights from being disregarded and to prevent the implementation of the West's plans to dismember Middle Eastern countries.

Another 200 Iraqi POW's Released

LD0605110893 Tehran IRNA in English 1053 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Iran unilaterally released another 200 Iraqi prisoners of war and handed them over to Iraqi officials at Khosravi border checkpoint, Thursday. This raised to 3,255 the number of Iraqi war prisoners released unilaterally by Iran over the past year. Last week, 200 Iraqi POWs were released by the Islamic Republic and repatriated to their home country.

Despite unilateral release of a large number of Iraqi POWs captured during the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war on Iran, neither Baghdad nor international organizations have taken any measure to release Iranian war prisoners held in Iraq.

A spokesman for the POWs commission today expressed hope that such humanitarian actions taken by Iran would help secure the release of all Iranians held in captivity in Iraq.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Ends Visit 6 May

LD0605165593 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam left Iran today at the end of his 4-day visit and was seen off by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During his stay in Iran, Nguyen held talks with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and the ministers of foreign affairs, of culture and Islamic guidance, of agriculture and of oil.

On Monday Velayati and Nguyen singed a letter of understanding which foresees Tehran-Hanoi cooperation in various economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and technical fields.

Ukraine Seeks Economic Ties With Iran

LD0605163893 Tehran IRNA in English 1321 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 6, IRNA—The visiting Ukranian deputy prime minister told the Iranian foreign minister here Thursday that Kiev is eager to establish long-term and direct political, economic and cultural ties with Tehran.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati welcomed the proposal of Yuliy Ioffe, who arrived here last Monday on a four-day visit. The Ukranian official also said that his country favours promotion of bilateral relations in the fields of oil and natural gas and export of Iranian gas to Europe via Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Ioffe and Iran's Minister of Mines and Metals Hussein Mahluji concluded a letter of understanding Wednesday for economic cooperation. According to the document, the two countries are to cooperate in the field of mine exploration in general and modernization and renovation of coal mines in particular.

Furthermore, National Iranian Oil Company is to supply Ukraine with crude oil in return for Ukranian oil derivatives. Both countries are also make joint investments in non-ferrous projects and exchange technical, scientific and vocational information and tourists.

Afghan Leader Seeks Mediation Between Factions

LD0705105793 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 7, IRNA—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani in a message to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday informed him of the latest political developments in his country. Voicing concern over the continuing unrest in Afghanistan, Rabbani urged Rafsanjani to launch personal initiatives towards removing of misunderstanding and creation of harmony among the fighting Afghan groups.

"The Islamic government in Afghanistan lauds all your brotherly assistance towards ending the war and bloodshed and believes that your excellency's role and personality would be effective in removing of the misunderstanding and creating of coordination (among the Afghan factions)," Rabbani said in his message.

The mujahideen leaders, including President Rabbani and Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar, have been meeting in Jalalabad since Saturday to settle their differences over a future cabinet and secure a permanent ceasefire envisaged by a peace accord they signed in March. Intensive fighting between the Shiite mujahideen and the government forces is reported from Kabul in violation of the ceasefire.

Tajik Official Asks for Help To Expand Tourism

NC0705111193 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Apr 93 p 14

[Text] In view of its common bonds with Iran, Tajikistan needs Iranian assistance in the field of tourism.

This was stated by Nematollah Safarov [name as published], Tajikistan's deputy minister for environmental protection, in an exclusive interview with RESALAT during the second session of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO]. Listing the special cultural and historic ties between Iran and Tajikistan, he stated: Conditions are very good for the growth of tourism in our country. We are extremely rich in natural beauties and we have set up national parks to attract tourists.

He added: Since our country is so young, we need education and training in tourism. Islamic Iran can be among our best helpers. In view of the quality of tourism in Iran, we are confident we can use Iranian assistance.

Commenting on his impressions on Iran, the Tajik deputy minister said: Iran is among the region's most powerful countries and has all the necessary grounds for considerable progress. As for tourism, it can be one of the region's significant poles, hence our interest to establish tourism relations with it.

Commenting on the second ECO session, Safarov said: We hope the talks being held will help to expand tourism on the regional and world level so that we can assist with the historic and cultural strengthening of nations.

Velayati Note to UK's Hogg on Interests Cited

LD0605214493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr. Velayati, elaborated on the postures of Iran in the face of issues of mutual interest, including Bosnian crisis and peace between Arabs and the Zionist regime, in a message to his British counterpart.

The message was submitted to the British undersecretary of foreign affairs, Douglas Hogg, by the Iranian charge d'affaires in London, Mr. Ansari, yesterday.

In a meeting between the two officials, mutual relations as well as regional and international issues of interest were discussed. Undersecretary of the British foreign secretary in the meeting laid emphasis on the settlement of problems in the way of expansion of relations between the two countries and called for the expansion of Iran-Britain relations.

Relations With Germany, France Viewed

NC0705075493 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Apr 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran, France, Searching for New Horizons"]

[Text] An informed source from the judiciary branch of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced on Sunday that the case of the German national, Helmut Szimkus, had reached the final stage of the judiciary process.

According to judiciary authorities, Szimkus had confessed at a lower court that he had been recruited by the Iraqi secret service, and had passed on to them information from Iran. His defense counsel had appealed the verdict and the case had then been turned over to the High Court of Justice.

The new propaganda uproar about a German spy in an Iranian prison has been raised at a time when the honeymoon of several years in relations between Iran and Germany is facing rather serious problems.

Some political observers are of the opinion that the problems, which originated from the German side, could easily have been avoided. Correlating certain political prerequisites with the expansion of ties between the two countries were among the causes of the aggravated situation.

On the other hand, although the Iran-German relations did not reach the most desirable conditions, Iran's ties with France are destined to reach a number of basic concords specially after the Gaullist victory in the recent elections in late March. Tehran has not hidden its pleasure with the recent turn of fortunes in the French political scene.

Informed sources have announced that Mahmud Va'ezi, Deputy Foreign Minister for American and European Affairs will stop in Paris, en route to Ireland, for a visit with his French counterpart.

In recent days the French have demonstrated that they wish to resolve the problems that had come up in their relations with Iran in the course of last year.

They have realized that years of investment on Iraq as their closest ally in the Persian Gulf region has borne no result, and that by putting all their eggs in the broken basket of Iraq, they are about to lose their foothold in the region. The U.S. and Britain have got such firm grips on the southern littoral states in the Persian Gulf that they have left no room for France. Consequently Iran could be the best choice as a potential ally for France in the region, while it could at the same time provide a large market for the French goods.

Conversely, from Tehran's point of view France presents certain features which induce the leaders in Tehran to prefer special ties with France. The immediate question now is whether the undeclared meeting between Va'ezi and his French counterpart could set in motion the mechanism for the creation of a new chapter in bilateral ties between the two countries.

'Nothing Decadent' on Azerbaijani Television

NC0705090493 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 2 May 93 p 8

[Letter from Karim Showkati: "Azerbaijan Transmits No Corrupt Programs"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Despite allegations, Azerbaijani television transmits no corrupt program that would indicate that it is "anti-Islamic." Following Azerbaijan's positive declaration of independence, one of the highlights of its television programs has been the popularization of the rich Islamic culture.

All of us who are residents of Khoy and other cities viewed the speeches by His Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Pashazadeh (the leader of the Caucasian Muslims), may he always be successful, on the various religious issues and interviews with students of seminaries in Azerbaijan carried by Baku television.

Every Thursday, Baku television carries a special program on Koranic recitation. We have also seen special features carried frequently on the religious occasions of 'Id-e Ghadir-e Khom [celebrated by Shiites], 'Id al-Adha, and on the anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his scion).

In principle, Islam is one of the pillars that constitute the basis of the policies of the Azerbaijani Government. This is because a Muslim country like Azerbaijan is fortunately also a Shiite country and has also added the holy green color to its flag as a sign of reverence to the hallowed religion of Islam (of the Shiites who believe in the 12 imams). [passage omitted]

Can a neighboring Muslim country like Azerbaijan, which speaks of Iran as a brother in its radio and television programs and in its public circles, transmit depraved programs? I have heard the cordial and fraternal remarks of the Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan on that country's radio; he can provide the best assurance that Azerbaijani television programs include nothing decadent. Further, the people of Khoy have warmly welcomed Baku television programs. One of the principles of the "Cultural Program" presented by Baku television is that rarely has a program been presented without mention of the famous poet and scholar the late Shahryar—may God's blessings be upon him. All the officials are enamored of him.

U.S. 'Mistreatment' of Envoy Violates Rules

LD0605121193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0947 GMT 6 May 93

[Political commentary: "America's Mistreatment of an Iranian Diplomat"]

[Excerpts] In the course of the trip taken by Iran's economic delegation to the World Bank building in Washington, American immigration officials mistreated an Iranian diplomat, thus violating the regulations governing diplomatic protocol. The Iranian delegation consisting of the officials of the Finance Ministry and the Central Bank and the chair of the economic and finance commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly [Majles] had been officially invited by the International Monetary Fund [IMF] and the World Bank [WB] to participate in their joint spring session.

The IMF and the WB are among international organizations affiliated to the United Nations which includes Iran among its founding members. In spite of the fact that these economic organizations are based in America, they are among the United Nations' organizations and America as the host government, and on the basis of the agreement concerning location, signed between that country and the United Nations, does not have the right to interfere in the diplomatic affairs of these international organizations.

Hoseyni-Shahrudi, Majles deputy and chair of the economic and financial commission of the Majles, was mistreated on arrival in America and met with measures that contravened diplomatic protocol, by the immigration authorities of that country. According to American officials, Mr. Shahrudi was issued a visa by mistake and the immigration authorities had acted in accordance with the instructions of the U.S. State Department.

If the reasons put forward are accepted, the mistreatment of the Iranian diplomat still appears as an unlawful and unjustifyable act. If America had regretted issuing a visa to the Iranian diplomat, this still does not justify his maltreatment and abuse of diplomatic protocol. Moreover, on the basis of its agreement with the United Nations, the America cannot in principle, prevent members of a delegation belonging to one of the member countries of the United Nations from entering its soil. Of course, in the past too, America resorted to different types of ploys to commit similar offenses toward other despatched delegations from organizations and countries. [passage omitted]

It should be mentioned that the host country has, in addition to the duty of respecting its international commitments, the duty of preserving national security, in the first instance. But this should not be used by the host country as a pretext to violate its international commitments. Therefore, if the American Government claims that the entry of the Iranian diplomat, within the framework of an official and recognized delegation, was contrary to her national security, this is still no justification for mistreating him, detaining him without warning, and jailing him with addicts and those charged with criminal offenses.

Events like this including the issuance of a visa and then the U.S. State Department regretting it and misbehavior of the immigration authorities are all indications that America disregards international regulations. [passage omitted].

A government which publishes annually a list of countries supporting terrorism and illegal actions, itself disregards regulations more than the rest. Of course mistreatment of an Iranian diplomat is unpleasant but it can be termed as another clear testimony of America's aggressive nature and it is up to the United Nations to pursue this matter and remove the basis for a repeat of similar type of events in the future.

Habibi Criticizes U.S. Diplomatic 'Misbehavior'

LD0605173393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpts] After a cabinet session last night Hasan Habibi, first vice president and government spokesman, was interviewed by correspondent. We draw your attention to the interview.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] Recently we saw the U.S. Government's inappropriate handling of the Iranian delegation to the World Bank session. What is the official stand of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on this issue and what decisions have been made to prevent a repetition of this?

[Habibi] As you know, we have protested this action. And, in general, if the world is to have stability and peace, it must observe international regulations and pay attention to diplomatic principles. Those states which constantly give lectures on behavior to others are, by their political and diplomatic misbehavior, beset by the same misbehavior themselves. Naturally, we protest and if there is need for action, it will be taken.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

Jannati on Western 'Cultural Onslaught,' Election

LD0705102893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The glorious ceremonies of the Friday prayers were held today throughout the Islamic homeland with the participation of the masses of worshippers. In Tehran's Friday prayers ceremony Ayatollah Jannati, a clerical member of the Guardian Council, devoted part of his sermons to the issue of Western cultural onslaught. Referring to the recent remarks made by the eminent leader, Ayatollah Jannati described the struggle against the Western presence in the cultural scene as the most important movement in the face of the onslaught waged by the enemies of Islam. In the same connection, he stressed the need for the judicial authorities to take decisive action against agents responsible for spreading corruption among the country's youth and children.

Pointing to the presidential elections in June, Tehran's interim Friday prayers leader termed the present conditions as very sensitive for the country and the revolution. Underlining the need for extensive participation of the Iranian people in the elections, he said: The Guardian Council will assess the status of each candidate on the basis of the principles of the Constitution, to ensure that those individuals who become presidential candidates have the basic prerequisites for undertaking the country's most important executive and managerial tasks.

The clerical member of the Guardian Council described the Islamic Republic of Iran's free presidential elections as the scene of competition between candidates. He called on the people to be diligent in fulfilling their responsibility of electing a president by casting their votes at the ballot boxes.

Elsewhere in his sermons, Ayatollah Jannati remarked on the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Morteza Mottahari. He described him as a great intellectual, learned scientist, and a valuable cleric, and viewed his lasting scientific and religious works as a great source of divine knowledge for the world's intellectuals.

Egypt Said To Stop Publishers Attending Book Fair

NC0705110693 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 2 May 93 p 20

[Text] Despite Egyptian publishers' wish to participate in the Tehran International Book Fair, the Egyptian Government did not allow them to attend.

This was stated by Ahmad Masjed-Jame'i, deputy minister of Islamic culture and guidance, who also heads the Tehran Book Fair. Speaking in an exclusive interview with HAMSHAHRI, the deputy minister said: Last year we had a good turnout of Egyptian publishers at the fair. They were warmly welcomed by us and also received the fair's plaque of appreciation.

Masjed-Jame'i said: This year, we invited Egyptian publishers to participate, but, despite their interest and readiness, the Egyptian Government opposed their presence. Of course, several books by Egyptian publishers have been acquired through various representations and Arab countries and will be displayed at this year's fair.

Pointing out that Iran did not participate in last year's fair in Cairo because the Egyptian Government did not extend the necessary facilities, he said: Last year, the Egyptian Government alleged that Iran was not interested in participating. But we don't mix cultural affairs with politics.

Blast Reported at Sardasht Intelligence Office

NC0705065193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] A report from Sardasht states that on the evening of 1 May, a strong explosion badly damaged the regime's intelligence office in Sardasht. Part of the building was destroyed and the windows of the Telecommunications Department were shattered.

As usual, the regime's mercenaries later arrested and imprisoned some people. There is no precise information on the fate of these people.

And there is no precise information on any regime casualties in the blast. Based on a report from Sardasht, Hadi Seyyed Ja'fari, who is in charge of intelligence in West Azerbaijan Province, was at the office with a delegation when the explosion occurred.

RAH-E MOJAHED Said Closed for Montazeri Reporting

NC0705105993 Tehran SALAM in Persian 27 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] The activities of the publication RAH-E MOJAHED have been halted. Following the publication of the news of the closure by the Special Clerical Court, a SALAM correspondent contacted the court to inquire about the closure. Unfortunately, the first time, after a lengthy delay, the telephone line went dead. The second time, our correspondent was connected to the court secretary, who told him there was no one at the court to answer questions and that he did not know when they would return.

To acquire more precise information, SALAM's correspondent tried to contact the offices of the publication, but no one answered the phone. RAH-E MOJAHED was reportedly closed for reporting on recent incidents in Qom and on Ayatollah Montazeri.

Our correspondent intended to inquire about the link between the Qom incidents and the Special Clerical Court's decision and to ask when a jury would be assigned to the case. He was unable to do so.

Correction to GARDUN Magazine Publication

WA0705141093

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "GARDUN Magazine To Be Published Again," published in the 4 May Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 61:

First column, first complete paragraph, first line, make read: [Text] The magazine GARDUN, managed by 'Abbas Ma'rufi...; (supplying missing words)

Pakistan

Further Reportage on Sindh Assembly By-Elections

Provisional Results Announced

BK0605115693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 May 93

[Excerpt] Provisional results of the by-elections for 20 seats of the Sindh assembly have been announced.

According to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, the party positions according to these results is as follows:

Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Haqiqi 7, People's Democratic Alliance 5, Independent candidates 4, Pakistan Muslim League [PML]-Functional 2, and PML-Nawaz Group 2 seats. [passage omitted]

PPP Calls Elections 'Rigged'

BK0605152893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Karachi, May 6 (AFP)—Former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto's party alleged Thursday dirty tricks were used in a provincial by-elections won by government-backed candidates in record low turnout.

Syed Qaim Ali Shah, chief of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in southern Sindh, said Wednesday's by-elections for 20 seats in the provincial assembly was "unfair and rigged."

Newspaper reports put the turnout in the by-elections in 20 constituencies at less than five percent.

"The extremely lown turnout was a vote of no-confidence in the Sindh government," Shah told a news conference here, adding this provided "enough justification" for the dissolution of the provincial assembly and the government.

The PPP is a member of the federal caretaker government installed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan after dismissing former premier Nawaz Sharif and dissolving the National Assembly on April 18.

The party, together with other members of the coalition, advocates the dissolution of provincial assemblies, contending elections called by the president for July 14 will be rigged if the status quo is maintained.

Thirteen of the seats up for grabs in the by-elections were in the provincial capital Karachi, a stronghold of Urdu-speaking settlers from India represented by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM).

The seats fell vacant after the MQM resigned en masse last summer following an army crackdown on crime that netted hundreds of MQM activists on charges of terrorism.

The party had swept the 1988 and 1990 polls in urban parts of Sindh. But it split when dissidents backing the army crackdown formed their own MQM-Haqiqi faction.

Haqiqi candidates, standing with government backing, bagged six seats in the by-election. The People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), also led by Bhutto, won five seats, while four independents also got through.

Two seats were won by the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) led by deposed premier Nawaz Sharif and three went to another PML faction headed by Pir Pagaro. Ishaq Khan's son-in-law Irfanullah Marwat won a seat after tough competition in the only Karachi constituency where some activity was noticed.

The outcome of the by-elections could boost provincial Chief Minister Muzaffar Hussain Shah, whose fragile coalition was shaken after the dismissal of the Sharif government.

Shah joined the president's camp during the power tussle between Ishaq Khan and Sharif, but rival PDA, which joined the federal government after Sharif's ousting, is demanding his removal.

The faction headed by MQM's founding father, Altaf Hussain, who lives in London, had called for a boycott of elections following the weekend murder of the party's chairman, Azim Tariq, 42, by unidentified assailants.

Hussain has accused the breakaway MQM Haqiqi faction and government intelligence agencies of complicity in Tariq's murder.

Committee Accuses Nawaz Sharif of Power Misuse

BK0705112893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] The chairman of the Accountability Committee and federal labor minister, Mr. Zahid Sarfraz, has accused the former government of promoting personal business interests at the cost of public exchequer, undermining the interest of state-owned industry and completely destroying ship breaking industry at Garani. Giving details at a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the former prime minister, through misuse of power, had reduced customs duty on shredded and (?bundled) scrap, causing a loss of over 1 billion rupees to the government in addition to losses to Pakistan Steel Mill.

Narcotics Board 'Ordered' To Drop Charges Against MP

BK0605102793 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 May 93 pp 1,4

[By Anwar Sindhu and Rana Jawad]

[Text] Islamabad—The Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB) has been ordered to drop charges against absconding Jamhood Watan Party [JWP] MPA [Member of Provincial Assembly] Asim Kurd, who was wanted for his alleged involvement in a massive narcotics shipment seized near Taftan in October 1990. The Balochistan government passed orders to this effect on Tuesday afternoon, PNCB sources disclosed to THE NATION.

Ironically, the co-accused in this case, Haji Abdullah, is to be granted no such amnesty. He was sentenced to rigorous life imprisonment and 30 lashes by a speedy trials court, a sentence which was subsequently reduced

to simple life imprisonment on appeal to the Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court.

The severity of the sentence dealt out to Haji Abdullah, and from which Asim Kurd has been absconding is due to the extreme circumstances of the case. During the Taftan operation, five sepoys of the Frontier Constabulary [FC] were shot dead and a captain seriously wounded while interdicting a hug cache of illicit drugs, which included 500 kgs of opium and 400 kgs of hashish. Consequently the narcotics gang kidnapped seven officers of the FC and held them hostage in Iran. They were later released after action by the Iranian authorities.

Following this rude challenge to the authorities, the Balochistan government and federal and provincial law enforcement agencies conducted an armed rald on the town of Kiruka, near the Afghan border, and arrested Bagicha Gul Muhammad, who had taken sactuary in a local mosque. Another raid was later conducted on a house in Kirtake, from where 1600 kgs of soda ash and acetic anhydride (both key chemicals in the manufacture of heroin from opium) were recovered, as well as a small yet significant stash of arms.

It was here that the automatic rifle and arms licence of Asim Kurd was found, and the case against him was established. The investigating officers concluded from this that Kurd was a member of gang that had fought the encounter with the FC at Taftan. Kurd, who had not been named in the First Information Report after the Taftan encounter, was thus named in subsequent legal documentation (known as zimnis). The PNCB finally caught up with Kurd at the home of Balochistan provincial minister (still serving) Lararuliah Zehri. Arrest warrants for Kurd were issued by District and Sessions Judge, Quetta, and reinforcements from the FC called in. However, by the time the FC arrived, so had orders from the Balochistan Chief Minister, ordering them to withdraw. Kurd, as could be expected, disappeared, taking refuge in Sindh, where he obtained bail-before- arrest from the Sindh High Court.

The PNCB appealed agaisnt the interim bail order in the Balochistan HIgh Court, which was accepted by Mr. Justice Amir-ul- Mulk, Kurd was arrested, but a local court refused to grant physical remand to the Investigating officer. Instead, Kurd was sent on judicial remand to prison, but he spent this short period in the more luxurious surroundings of a local hospital. Meanwhile, Kurd appealed against his judicial remand to the Supreme Court, which promply rejected his application. On hearing the declation of the Supreme court, Kurd escaped from the hospital and has been absconding for almost two years.

NWFP Cabinet To Be Reconstituted

BK0605143493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] cabinet will be reconstituted by the 11th of this month. Five PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] members will be included in the reconstituted cabinet. Besides, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam and independents will also be represented in the cabinet. This was stated by the NWFP chief minister, Mr. Mir Afzal Khan, while talking to newsmen in Peshawar today. The names of the PDA members to be inducted in the cabinet will be finalized in a couple of days.

Army Chief Visits Troops in Siachen Sector

BK0505024893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 93

[Text] Army Chief General Abdul Waheed has said that the nation is very proud of the sacrifices being made by the Pakistani troops in the Siachen sector. He was addressing the troops at forward posts at the highest war front in the world in the northern areas.

Minister Discusses Domestic Oil, Gas Production

BK0605161293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Pakistan is producing over 65,000 barrels of oil and 100 and 500 million [as heard] cubic feet of gas per day and efforts are being made to further increase their production. This information was given by the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Arbab Mohammad Jahangir Khan, during a briefing at the OGDC [Oil and Gas Development Corporation] headquarters in Islamabad today.

Foreign Office on Purpose of Bhutto's U.S. Visit

BK0605102393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 6 May 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—The Foreign Office on Wednesday said that the Caretaker Government had taken certain unspecified steps to end its dispute with the United State and the Arab World over the terrorism issue.

'We have a problem on the issue of terrorism with the United States. That is a major problem. We have certain other misunderstandings with some friendly Islamic countries about the activities of some of their nationals in Pakistan. Important steps have already been taken by the Caretaker Government to overcome those problems. Our friends are satisfied with the steps that are being taken and we are in turn satisfied that these problems will be resolved in the very near future and that we shall be able to restore normalcy and friendship that has traditionally marked our relations with the United States and with all the other countries,' Foreign Office spokesman Munir Akram told journalists at a briefing on Wednesday.

His statement was typical of the distinct change in the tone of the Foreign Office since the dismissal of the Nawaz administration. While Nawaz was in power, Pakistan had categorically rejected the charges agianst

Pakistan as being baseless and totally unfounded. Now it has admitted that the terroriam issue is a major problem.

Further, spokesman Akram offered the first official recognition to Benazir Bhutto's tour of the West and even went on to support her efforts.

Asked to comment on Benazir's visit to the US, he said, 'Although this visit is of a private nature, to participate in the CNN Conference, we do understand that in view of her eminence, she would be received by some officials and personalities in Washington, and we are hopeful that these meetings will contribute to a better understanding of the problems and priorities of Pakistan.'

Asked whether the Foreign Office endorsed Benazir's appeal to the US Government, made in an interview telecast by CNN on Tuesday night, to suspend consideration of the terrorism issue until the installation of an elected government, Akram's surprisingly upbeat reply was that he didn't think there would be 'anything to pend' after the action which had been taken by the Caretaker Government. Howover. he didn't think it appropriate to detail those actions, and would only say that these had satisfied Pakistan's friends.

The spokesman's statement followed the meeting with many ambassadors held by Foreign Minister Pirzada since he was sworn in a week ago, which he detailed. Pirzada has already met the ambassadors of the five permament member states of the United Nations Security Council, and Germany and Japan, as well as the six envoys of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

'The purpose of these meetings has been to discuss Pakistan's bilateral relations with all these important countries, as well as to bring to their attention the priority concerns and issues for the Caretaker Government. The Foreign Minister has explained the constitutional nature of the transition in Pakistan. He has underlined our desire to resolve all our bilateral and multilateral external issues on the basis of principles and consistent with the policies which Pakistan has traditionally adopted.

'He has also underlined our desire to overcome bilateral problems with our neighbour India our desire for peace in Afghanistan and for the resolution of certain problems that have arisen with some friendly countries. The response from most of the ambassadors has been very encouraging and supportive of the effort of the Caretaker Government,' said Akram, describing the nature of these meetings.

Another significant high-level exchange which has taken place recently between Pakistan and the US was the visit of Mrs. Robin Raphel, who is soon to be appointed as the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, She is the widow of late US Ambassador Arnold Raphel, who was killed in the C-190 crash of August 17, 1988, which also claimed the life of President Ziaul Haq.

While declining to draw a 'direct connection' between Raphel's visit and the terrorism issue, the spokesman's official description of the visit was, 'her visit is to see old friends and hold discussions. She was posted here with her husband when he was Political Counsellor at the US Embassy in Islamabad, She has come here to discuss with officials of Pakistan some of the developments, but this has been done at the unofficial and informal level because she has still to be officially appointed as Head of the South Asia Department. These informal contacts that have taken place, along with the US Ambassador, have been very useful.'

However, it is still clear that Pakistan a long way to go before it can resume the special kind of relationship it had with Washington during the days of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Spokesman Akram confirmed that there was no change in the status of US arms sales to Pakistan including the 72 F-16 fighter jets Islamabad has already paid for.

'As far as we know, there is no change in the situation that existed in our cooperation with the US in the field of defence. Which meant that commercial sales were open to Pakistan. Some of the contract were under review because of the Pressler Amendment. As far as we know, that remains the situation at the present moment,' he said.

Mazari on Ties With Sri Lanka, Accountability

BK0705085693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 May 93

[Text] Pakistan and Sri Lanka had expressed their resolve to continue their friendly relations. This was stated by the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari, while talking to newsmen at the Lahore airport this morning on return from Colombo after attending the last rites of Sri Lanka's assassinated president, Premadasa. He said Pakistan has very good relations with Sri Lanka and they were very much (?impressed) by the good wishes sent to them by the people and the government of Pakistan. He said that he had a meeting with acting president of Sri Lanka. Both sides expressed the resolve to continue friendly relations. Replying to a question, he said that he had also met Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is current chairperson of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], and assured her of Pakistan's full cooperation in SAARC matters. In response to a query about process of accountability at home, the caretaker prime minister said that if anything comes to his notice, he will take action against the person concerned. He said that it is not possible to go into the depth of everything in three months. However, the next government can look into these cases. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, who was accompanied by members of his entourage, was received at the airport by the Punjab governor, Chaudhary Mohammad Altaf Hussain, MPA's [members of Provincial Assemblies] and senior officials.

Foreign Investment in Power Sector Sought

BK0605092293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The Senate was informed this morning that the government has no intention to contemplate to make any change in the existing policy of foreign exchange account. This assurance was given by the minister for finance and economic affairs, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari, while responding to a point of order raised by Dr. Mohammad Raihan. During the question hour, the house was informed that the present government intends to encourage foreign private investment in thermal power and small hydropower generation.

Replying to a question by Syed Fasih Iqbal, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Leghari said the government would also encourage private parties to buy existing thermal units, but they would have to come up with plans to add more power to the system to meet growing demand of the energy.

Meanwhile, the Senate has been continuing its discussion on the admissibility of four identical privilege motions regarding the dissolution of the National Assembly. Mr. Yahya Bakhtiar was speaking in the house when the last reports came in.

Sri Lanka

Wijetunge Elected New President 'Unopposed'

BK0705120693 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1046 GMT 7 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 May (LANKAPUVATH)—Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge is the new president of Sri Lanka. He was Friday elected in parliament unopposed as the successor to late President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

His name was proposed by Minister for Transport and Highways Wijepala Mendis. It was seconded by Minister of Justice and Higher Education A.C.S. Hameed. There were no other candidates.

Secretary General of Parliament Nihal Seneviratne said he declared D.B. Wijetunge as being elected uncontested as the president of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Making a statement in parliament, President D.B Wijetunge said he will endeavour to establish a new social order in which there will not be even a trace of arbitrariness and intolerance.

He invited the members to join hands with him in working for the achievement of these ideals and the development goals as full fledged partners sharing hopes and aspirations.

He assured that the new responsibilities that he has been asked to fulfill will not diminish his accessibility to the members on both sides of the house.

He pledged to continue his duties in the closest and most intimate association with them.

Mr. Wijetunge said: "I have accepted this daunting responsibility of guiding the destiny of our nation with humility. I know that our people have implicit trust in me. My constant endeavour will be to honour that trust. I will not betray that trust even vestigially."

The irrevocable writing of the invisible hand of history has tragically recorded a sudden and grievous passing away of an outstanding leader. The late President Premadasa was a leader who played a pre-eminent role in all aspects of our national lives for several momentous decades. In his unforgettable historical role, he redefined democracy in terms of the teeming downtrodden masses, earning spontaneous tribute from the far-flung global community and its leaders.

The president said: "I consider it essential at this time to offer my special sense of gratitude to the members of the opposition for their outstanding gesture that enabled the house to register unanimity in electing me as president."

Mr. D.B. Wijetunge was born at Polgahaanga in Sri Lanka's hill country capital of Kandy in 1992 [year as received].

He joined UNP [United National Party] in 1946 and was elected member of parliament for Udunuwara in 1965. He was minister of information and broadcasting, minister of power and highways, minister of posts and telecommunications, minister of power and energy during the period 1977-79. He also served as minister of agricultural development and research and minister of food. In 1988, he became the governor of the North Western Province and in 1989 minister of finance. In 1989, he became the prime minister of Sri Lanka while serving as minister of finance and was also given the portfolio of minister of labour and vocational training in 1990.

Mr. Wijetunge has represented several international conferences and seminars as minister of various ministries and also as prime minister.

The speaker M.H. Mohamed congratulated Mr. D.B. Wijeunge on his election to the high office of the president of Sri Lanka. He said that he is confident that Mr. Wijetunge would be able to guide the destiny of the people of the country towards peace and prosperity.

Leader of the house and minister of industries, science and technology Ranil Wickremasinghe described the election of the president through a parliamentary vote in Sri Lanka today as a historic occasion. He pointed out that Mr. Wijetunge is assuming the office of president to serve the country carrying forward the policies of the late president. He added that we should extend our support

to Mr. Wijetunge to face the challenge of establishing the peace and political stability.

Leader of the opposition Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike congratulating the new president said they are confident that with years of experience, Mr. Wijetunge has the capacity to rise above self and party and serve the country. She referred to the needs to revitalize the institution of parliamentary democracy that has served the country in the past.

Minister of tourism and rural industrial development S. Thondaman wished that Mr. Wijetunge would be able to continue the policies of the late president for peace and prosperity in the country.

Member Dinesh Gunawardene extending the greetings of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna hoped that the new president would receive courage to suitably discharge the responsibilities entrusted to him.

Member Athauda Seneviratne speaking on behalf of the United Socialist Alliance hoped that Mr. Wijetunge would be able to serve in the new post by satisfying the majority.

Suresh Premachandran, member of the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front] extending the greetings of his party noted that finding a solution to the communal issue was the main problem in the country. He wished that the new president would receive the necessary courage for this purpose.

Speaking on behalf of the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, member M.H. M. Ashraff expressed his hope that the new president would be able to work for the forward march of the country.

Parliament will meet again on the 20th of this month.

Meanwhile, answering questions raised by local and foreign correspondents at the parliamentary complex after the parliament sittings, the new president said that the main task he has to face today is to unite the country. He pledged to carry forward the economic policies of the late president.

Mr. Wijetunge added that he was expecting the recommendations of the parliamentary sub committee in resolving the communal issue.

President Makes First Speech

BK0705094293 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0902 GMT 7 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lanka's new President D.B. Wijetunge in his maiden speech to Parliament Friday as president, immediately after he was unanimously elected as the third executive president of Sri Lanka, pledged that he would constantly endeavor to honour the trust reposed in him by the people and that he will not betray that trust at any cost.

Mr. Wijetunge said: "I have accepted this daunting responsibility of guiding the destiny of our nation with humility."

He promised a new social order in which there will not even be a vestige of arbitrariness, violence and other negative and evil forces that mar the sanctity of life.

The new president said: "I note with regret that an erosion of the values and virtues has begun to set in. They have begun to raise their ugly heads, victimising outstanding men and women who are the glory of our motherland".

The new president said that he firmly believed that religions and faiths are unifying forces. They should not be made use of to unleash divisive forces.

He assured the speaker that the new responsibilities that he has been asked to fulfill will in no way diminish his accessibility to the members of both sides of the house.

Mr. Wijetunge quoting William Shakespeare's "Twelth Night" said "be not afraid of greatness—some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them."

He said it was a personal tribute to him to be elected as the president of Sri Lanka by parliament.

Mr. Wijetunge categorically stated that he will endeavor to establish a new social order in which there will not be even a trace of arbitrariness and intolerence.

Speaking to journalists immediately after he was elected as the president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Wijetunge said that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will be invited for peace talks. "We have been inviting them for a long period of time, but they are not coming".

Asked as to whether the LTTE masterminded the assassination of President Premadasa, the newly elected president said that investigations are still being carried out.

Mr. Wijetunge said that he would not seek any foreign assistance to intensify security conditions in Sri Lanka. "We can manage our own selves".

EPDP Appeals for Foreign Help To Fight LTTE

BK0705084893 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0725 GMT 7 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—Our president has been assassinated by the fascist LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in the most cowardly manner, when this illustrious leader fell down the tears that mother Lanka shed, wet the soil. The fascist LTTE, which has challenged the democratic traditions, has swallowed a leader who was elected by the people. Fascist mania, which started with the killing of leaders of those who represented the Tamil speaking people of the Notheast, has now stretched its hand in the direction of

the capital city. There is no doubt that the assassination of President Premadasa is a revealation of this fact, says the Eelam People's Democratic Party [(EPDP) in a statement to the leaders and representatives of foreign countries who have arrived to pay homage to our late president.

You have come rushing to share the deep grief of the people of Sri Lanka. You and the people of your country, who are committed to democracy, have condemned this heinous crime, thereby revealing the bitter hatred of the civilised world against terrorism.

Our party makes an important request from you at this time. Presently the LTTE is engaged in propaganda and extortion in different modes. The LTTE continues its fascist activities in this country, while making the outside world believe that they are ready for negotiations and peace.

The LTTE has gained considerable experience in undertaking their terrorist activities making use of the democratic traditions of the country favourable to them. We also feel that they are making use of institutions and modes of democracy in your country in favour of them.

The assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in India is a fitting example of this, which you would also agreed. It is the wish of all that a common agreement should be reached to fight against the outcome of terrorism the world over.

On this basis we solicit your solidarity for our struggle against the LTTE which has become a challenge to democratic, political rights of Sri Lanka. If you could prevent the collection of funds for this fascist war in your country by those from Sri Lanka who have sneaked to your countries, this would be the greatest cooperation. You should also identify the false propaganda indulged by the LTTE in your countries for democracy and human rights after having assassinated leaders here. As an organisation representing the Tamil speaking people fighting against the LTTE, we understand the real character of them more than anybody else. It is because of this that we have made this request. The democratic world can only free itself from the threats of terrorism through a worldwide unity against terrorism, as such we will unite, we will win.

Further on Premadasa Funeral, Ceremonies

Bangladesh Prime Minister Attends

BK0605140193 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1240 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] The funeral of assassinated Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa is being held in Colombo today. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is now in Colombo to attend the last rites. The prime minister was received by Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herath on her arrival at the Colombo airport. She is accompanied by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman, Energy Minister Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain and Member of Parliament Begum Anwara Habib.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia met Hema Premadasa, widow of the assassinated Sri Lankan president, at the President House in Colombo today. The prime minister spent some time with members of the bereaved family, including the president's children, and expressed sympathy with them. Earlier, the prime minister laid wreaths at the coffin of the slain president. She also signed the condolence book. She wrote in the book that she was deeply shocked by the assassination of President Premadasa. She said that with Premadasa's death, Bangladesh had lost a real friend, and the one billion people of this region had lost a benevolent and far-sighted leader. The prime minister remarked that Premadasa's contribution toward promotion of cooperation in the South Asian region would always be remembered. She strongly condemned the murder of President Premadasa and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family and the Sri Lankan people and prayed for the salvation of his departed soul. The Prime minister also met Acting President D.B. Wijetunge at his office.

Heads of state and government of other countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation are also attending the funeral. In addition, ministers, political leaders and senior officials of the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Japan are also attending the funeral. The funeral coincides with the Buddha Purnima day, the most important festival of Sri Lanka. Tight security steps have been taken for foreign dignitaries. Heavily armed soldiers and commandos have been deployed to ensure their security. The Sri Lankan Government has decided to impose a nine-hour night curfew throughout the country immediately after the funeral is over.

Premadasa Cremated; Security Tight

BK0605153593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 6 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 6 (AFP)—Assassinated Sri Lankan president Ranasinghe Premadasa was cremated here Thursday in a traditional Buddhist ceremony attended by tens of thousands of mourners under tight security.

Flames leaped more than 100 feet (30 meters) into the night sky after the flower-covered wooden coffin was placed inside an elaborate three-tiered white canopy by a military honor guard and set ablaze.

A 21-gun salute boomed out as the six soldiers in dress uniform removed the national flag, a yellow lion on a maroon background, from the casket and carried it into the funeral pyre topped by a white flag of mourning.

Premadasa's tearful widow, Hema, his son, daughter and other relatives walked three times around the pyre in a Buddhist ritual before the structure was set alight with flaming torches.

Army commandos and crack police units stood guard along the eight-kilometer (five-mile) route taken by the funeral procession from the seaside Presidential Palace to the cremation site in Independence Square.

Hundreds of thousands of Sri Lankans attended various stages of the day-long funeral for Premadasa, who died when a suspected Tamil separatist walked up to him during a May Day parade and detonated explosives strapped to his body.

Tens of thousands of mourners, many carrying umbrellas to ward off a fierce sun, marched slowly ahead of the coffin as it was borne from the palace on a truck topped by a golden canopy.

As many again gathered at the funeral site while others watched the procession on roads decorated with white streamers and posters of the slain president.

Mourners carried banners, pictures and cardboard cut-outs of Premadasa. "Premadasa: friend of the poor. You are immortal," one banner said.

Vehicles equipped with loudspeakers accompanied the marchers, broadcasting praises to the man who had ruled this island nation since January 1989.

In a brief oration, Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, one of the few foreign heads of state or government to attend the funeral, praised Premadasa as an "outstanding son of Sri Lanka."

"South Asia is deprived of a leader of vision, truth and enthusiasm," she said. "Let us join hands to combat violence and this senseless terrorism which is taking such a heavy toll in our region."

Premadasa's widow Hema, in an emotional funeral oration, vowed to continue her slain husband's policies and urged Sri Lankans to shed their differences and unite.

Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who has been serving as acting president and is expected to be confirmed as head of state by parliament on Friday, called for calm in the wake of the death.

"The greatest tribute we can pay to him is for all Sri Lankans to live in unity and brotherhood irrespective of all differences, in (?conformity) with the principles he valued," he said.

Ahead of the funeral Wijetunga ensured the population that "all precautions" had been taken to prevent any reprisals against the minority Tamil community by members of the Sinhalese majority.

Thousands of Tamils have fled their homes here fearing a backlash in the wake of the assassination.

The authorities imposed an 8:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. curfew to thwart any violence. Officials said many mourners were dissuaded from attending the funeral because of the curfew.

"Emotions are running high, but with the curfew many people returned to their homes after paying their respects," a senior police officer said.

Premadasa's coffin was taken over by the military just outside Independence Square, which celebrates the independence of then- Ceylon from Britain in 1948, and transferred to a guncarriage for the journey to the funeral pyre.

State-run television devoted live coverage to the entire proceedings, which lasted nearly nine hours.

Saffron-robed Buddhist monks chanted prayers at the cremation site to invoke blessings on Premadasa, a Sinhalese Buddhist.

Police have said the assassination was carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the most powerful of the groups seeking to carve out a Tamil homeland in the north and northeast of the island.

Premadasa's assassination came just eight days after opposition leader Lalith Athulathmudali was gunned down here during an election rally in an attack which police have also blamed on the Tigers.